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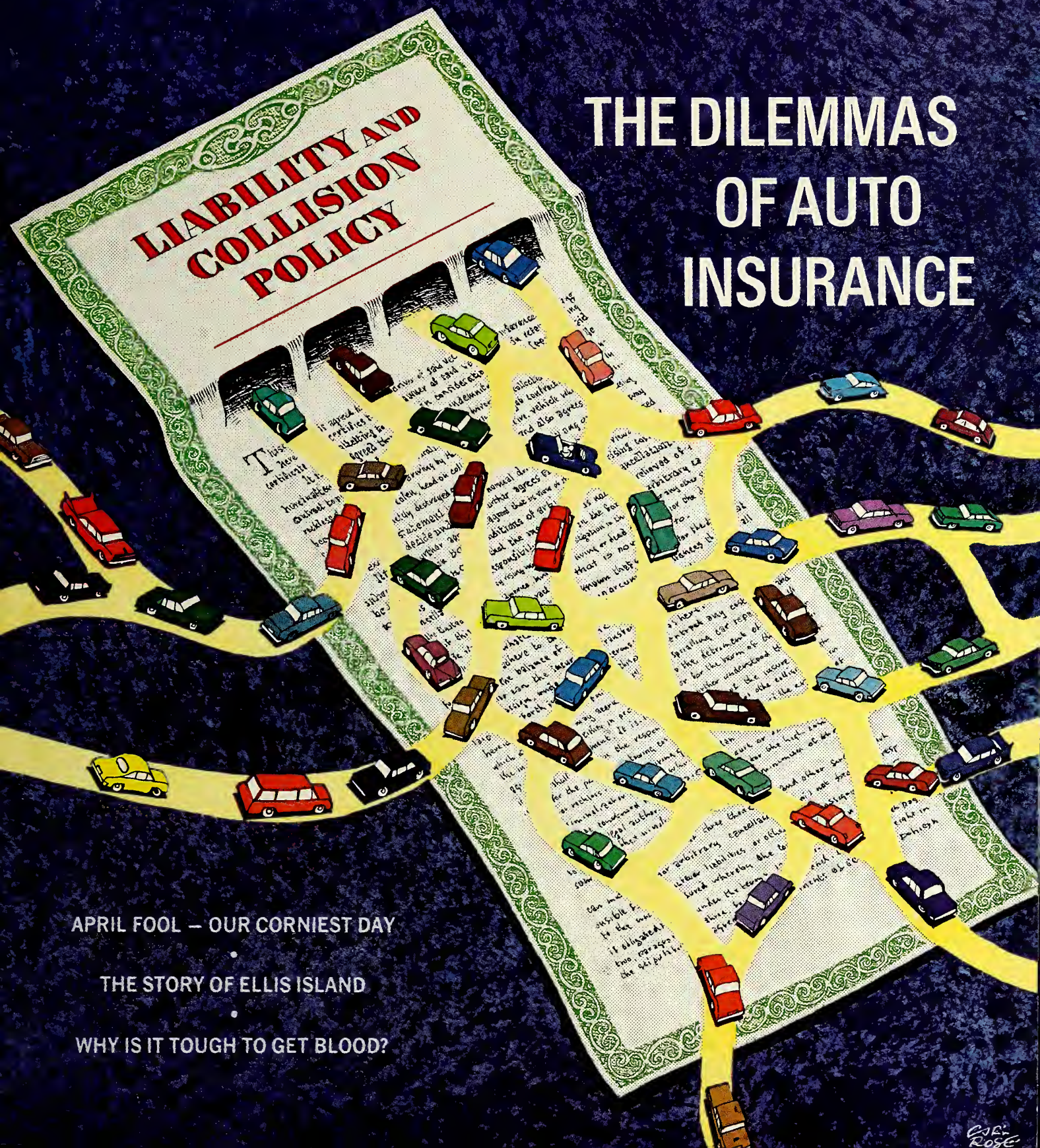
20c • APRIL 1969

LEGION

MAGAZINE

THE DILEMMAS OF AUTO INSURANCE

LIABILITY AND COLLISION POLICY



APRIL FOOL — OUR CORNIEST DAY

THE STORY OF ELLIS ISLAND

WHY IS IT TOUGH TO GET BLOOD?

JOHN ROSE

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LEGION

Magazine

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Publisher, James F. O'Neil

Editor

Robert B. Pitkin

Art Editor

Al Marshall

Assistant Editors

John Andreola

Mario V. Lubrano

Associate Editors

Roy Miller

James S. Swartz

Assistant Art Editor

Walter H. Boll

Production Manager

Art Bretzfield

Copy Editor

Grail S. Hanford

Circulation Manager

Dean B. Nelson

Indianapolis, Ind.

Advertising Sales Representatives

New York—Chicago

Robert Redden Associates, Inc.

111 West 57th Street

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212-246-2546

California

JE Publishers Representative Co.

8380 Melrose Avenue

Los Angeles, California 90069

420 Market Street

San Francisco, California 94111

**The American Legion
Publications Commission:**

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Johnson REELS

LETTERS > TO THE EDITOR <

Letters published do not necessarily express the policy of The American Legion. Keep letters short. Name and address must be furnished. Expressions of opinion and requests for personal services are appreciated, but they cannot be acknowledged or answered, due to lack of magazine staff for these purposes. Requests for personal services which may be legitimately asked of The American Legion should be made to your Post Service Officer or your state (Department) American Legion Hq. Send letters to the editor to: Letters, The American Legion Magazine, 720 5th Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10019.

THE POST OFFICE

SIR: Your article, "What's Wrong with the Post Office?" (February), did a first-class job in summarizing the findings of the President's Commission on Postal Organization, which I had the privilege of serving as Executive Director. The author was not convinced, however, that it is necessary to get the Post Office out of the Cabinet in order to achieve the reforms and improvements which he and the Commission agree to be necessary. I can assure you that the Commission thought long and hard before concluding that removal from the Cabinet was essential. Mechanization, or the end of patronage, or the ability to raise money, or other piecemeal measures, are most worthwhile, but are simply not enough. The Post Office must be brought into a new context so that its managers can, for the first time, really manage. Its dedicated people should be able to enjoy career opportunities and working conditions as in the most advanced sectors of our society. Only then in the Commission's view will the public get the good service it deserves, without the waste inherent in the present system.

MURRAY COMAROW
Silver Spring, Md.

SIR: The American Legion Magazine is a magazine that is or should be published for the good of all veterans. I was surprised and angered by Peter D. Bolter's article on the Post Office. As I see it, it is a direct insult to every postal employee, a great number of whom are Legionnaires and I am sure they do not feel happy about that disgraceful article.

WILLIAM O. GILMORE
Salem, Ore.

SIR: Congratulations and heartiest thanks to you and author Peter D. Bolter for the most amusing and enthralling article I have ever read about the Post Office. I could hardly get started on the article for laughing so hard at the elaborate drawings accompanying it. Those of us who work in the Post Office know you said it all in the cartoons. Multiply my belly laughs by the 800-odd members of my Post (all P.O. employees) and there must have been a roar that could be heard in Indianapolis.

NAME WITHHELD
New York, N.Y.
(Continued on page 4)

This free booklet will tell you how you can become a Computer Programmer

50,000
more
programmers
needed now!
500,000 more
will be needed
in a few
years!

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at home for big earnings
in the world's newest,
most exciting profession.

IF YOU'RE dissatisfied with your present job, why don't you become a programmer? So great is the demand for programmers, you'll have your choice of openings, with a growing future ahead.

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Occupation.....Working Hours
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The Lazy Pipe Tobacco

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Lights easy—
takes its own good
time about burning.



CONTINUED

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIR: In the past few years some of the nation's most august publications have published detailed studies on what's wrong with the Post Office. Isn't it about time that somebody came up with a few thoughts on what's right with the Post Office? Like the fact that the average U.S. postal employee today handles more than 114,000 pieces of mail a year. Any institution that is delivering more than one billion five hundred million pieces of mail every week can't be all bad.

FRANK R. BINETTE
Laconia, N.H.

We said that postal employees who are dedicated to public service are performing an ever-loving miracle.

SIR: When reference was made to your article on the Post Office, I obtained a copy and was introduced to the most informative treatment on veterans and other related affairs of interest in the "in-kind" contents of such a magazine. You are not only to be congratulated for your well-rounded, in-depth reporting, but (if I may be permitted a thought as an outsider) I wonder if your members fully appreciate your efforts.

ROLAND W. PAIN, Editor
Carriers' Courier
Fall River, Mass.

GI BILL OF RIGHTS

SIR: The first installment of the GI Bill story certainly shows the justification of putting all servicemen's benefits in one big package under the control of the Veterans Administration. I believe this was a wise way to get the legislation enacted and I feel this is a wise way of administering the benefits.

I have had occasion to make many inquiries in behalf of servicemen to the VA. I have been treated fairly and courteously by all VA personnel. I have had many occasions to thank an individual federal worker for help in behalf of an ex-serviceman, but I've gotten the impression that the VA is woefully understaffed. With a new burden of ex-servicemen from the Vietnam conflict about to be felt, Congress should review the VA structure and expand the organization to the point where an ex-serviceman's request is handled promptly and his benefits are provided without delay or anguish.

CRAIG WILSON, Director
Action Line
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron, Ohio

KITTY HAWK FLIGHTS

SIR: Paul Ditzel, author of "The First Flights at Kitty Hawk—1903" (February), is to be complimented. The article is excellent and informative. He really did a thorough research job.

WALTER E. BENJAMIN
Des Moines, Iowa

EDITOR'S CORNER

CONFUSION IN AUTO INSURANCE

PLEASE DON'T WRITE to tell us what we left out of our article on page 8: "The Dilemmas of Auto Insurance." We know what we left out—namely reams of additional material that can never be squeezed into a short article.

We started some months ago to put that article together, by going to many sources in and out of the insurance field for information.

On two counts it was a bewildering experience:

1. The whole story is so involved and complex that the mere mass of information began to become suffocating.

2. Those who know auto insurance best are those with a special interest in some aspect of it. Each tends to tell the tale from his point of view and say the other fellows are distorting the picture.

The militant reformers are out to shoot the insurance companies down.

The companies are out to defend themselves.

The stock companies and the mutual companies and the "independents" are collectively on the defensive, but internally at war with each other.

The state insurance commissioners take a variety of positions, but are in the bind

that if they admit that things have gone too far, then their regulation has failed. They may be frank or less than frank depending on how this uncomfortable situation makes them feel.

Many car owners are outraged at treatment they've received. Unions and other organizations are up in arms at insurance experiences of their members. You can hardly mention auto insurance without someone saying: "Wait'll you hear what happened to me!" Some people are afraid to file claims for insured damage they suffer, for fear their premiums will go up so much they'll pay more back than they get.

Newspapers are crusading against auto insurance practices.

Lawyers have their dander up at proposals to clear the courts of auto accident lawsuits.

Professors say that's a must.

Politicians are torn between the pressures of the companies, on the one hand, and outrage at how some of their constituents have been treated, on the other.

And it isn't as if anyone who has a special axe to grind is therefore wrong. Listen to any one of them and he tends to win you over until you tune in on the next wavelength.

After sampling all sides, it was plain that we couldn't steer a course through it all for you. Instead, since the Senate and the House had held hearings on auto insurance within the year, we went to those hearings and now give you mainly

(Continued on page 6)

**One weekend Major Smith, Lieutenant Schaffer,
and a beautiful blonde named Mary
decided to win World War II.**



They must do what no army can do...go where no army can go...
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ST. CROIX®

Imperial "XL" Rods



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SUPPORT YOUR STATE POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

continued

EDITOR'S CORNER

a look at the dilemmas of auto insurance as they emerged there.

The insurance companies themselves are in an odd bind. Today, they say they are as anxious as anyone else to find some remedy for the things that are basically wrong with the whole system.

Auto insurance grew up as personal protection, chiefly against liability, for the car owner who might hurt someone else in an era when the auto wasn't as lethal as it is today.

The system to protect the injurer was the one around which the present laws, regulations and practices were developed. Today, the auto has become so dangerous that protection for the injured, rather than the injurer, has assumed more social importance. Yet the present system works *well* when it defeats the claim of the injured. And it often does.

Plainly the system, including the laws and regulations that control it—or are supposed to control it—must be scrapped and replaced, if the old shoe will ever fit the new foot.

Further, insurance has become a necessity if one is to drive at all. The land is now full of people who must drive if they are to shop or go to work or pursue any sort of normal life. This means that when a company, as a pure insurance matter, denies insurance to a car owner, or arbitrarily makes it terribly expensive, it is not just an insurance matter any more. It is an exercise of a power over the right to drive at all which has been coming ever closer to usurping the power the states exert when they issue or revoke licenses.

All of this is so inherent in the system that the companies could not change it by themselves.

The extra bind that they are in is that they have been abusing this system through familiar practices that were aired in the hearings (see our article) which are arbitrary, arrogant, careless, and, as Congress politely said, "unresponsive to public needs."

Yet even if the companies stop their autocratic practices, and even if the state commissions see that they stay stopped, the inherent problems of auto insurance will remain until the present system is replaced. That is not going to be simple, and auto insurance will never be cheap until the damage that autos do is reduced.

ELMER SAYS

- Where there is bitterness, insult and turmoil, someone is trying to protect an indefensible position.
- It is a good general rule to be skeptical of an unasked favor.
- Communist youths riot for capitalism and capitalist youths riot for communism. This challenges the whole theory of evolution.
- Why is it that the fellow who overturned outhouses on Hallowe'en in 1928 now makes the best speech against vandals?

R.B.P.



Dateline Washington.... ANTI-CRIME DRIVE ON

NAT'L AIR-TRANSPORT PROGRAM?

TAX RELIEF FOR PENSIONERS

Congress, despite its Democratic control, is expected to give strong support to President Nixon's all-out drive against the nation's mushrooming crime. The President began to mobilize the resources available to battle crime, including hitherto unused wire-tapping authority, immediately after entering the White House.

Congress next will be urged to give Mr. Nixon more weapons, such as those proposed in the ten bills introduced in the House on January 3 (opening day of Congress) by Rep. Richard H. Poff (R-Va.), a proponent of tougher anti-crime legislation. Among other steps, Poff would impose mandatory prison sentences of up to 25 years for armed felony; add up to 20 years to sentences meted out to organized crime racketeers; prohibit the investment of crime profits into legitimate business (a tactic of the Mafia), and strengthen the powers of police and judges in dealing with suspected criminals.

Both the new Administration and Congress are giving high-priority consideration to developing a national policy on air transportation to deal with the ever-increasing problems of congestion, safety, comfort and convenience. Washington consensus is that the traditional piecemeal, problem-patching process has become hopelessly jammed for lack of a coordinated program.

Despite airport congestion, the air transport industry is priming to initiate supersonic jet flights at 1500-plus mph as early as 1972. Meanwhile, no solution's been found as yet for coping with the SST's sonic boom.

And although the supersonic airliners are still around the corner, planners are already thinking of hypersonic planes, carrying 250 passengers and flying at some 5,000 miles an hour, bridging New York to London in an hour. Planners see hypersonic transports a reality before the end of the 20th century.

The Advisory Commission on Intergovern-

mental Relations has taken a positive stand on the so-called "negative income tax" in its latest report.

While the federal government debates the pros and cons of providing cash payments to those families failing to earn a minimum annual income, the Commission is calling on state governments to follow Wisconsin and Minnesota in providing low-income pensioners with special refunds on property taxes.

In Wisconsin, which pioneered this kind of "negative income tax," some 60,000 low-income householders and renters--for the most part elderly or disabled--have benefited from the program.

The Wisconsin system provides the hardship cases with as much as a 25% tax credit, or cash payment, to relieve them from the inequity of a disproportionately high property (or rental) tax compared to their low income.

PEOPLE AND QUOTES

NIXON'S OUTLOOK

"I think you could describe me best as not being a 'half-worlder,' with my eyes looking only to Europe or only to Asia, but one who sees the whole world."—President Nixon.

NATIONAL BURDENS

"Countries do not assume burdens because it is fair—only because it is necessary."—Henry Kissinger, White House Asst., Nat'l Security Affairs.

HOLD THAT \$ LINE

"This Administration is determined to contain the inflation that has pushed interest rates to the highest level in history."—George Romney, Sec'y of Housing and Urban Development.

LAW VS. LIFE

"A way of law does not automatically become a way of life."—Vice President Agnew.

DESTROYING OUR AIR

"The most important natural resource we have is air and it is being destroyed a little every day."—Robert H. Finch, Sec'y

of Health, Education and Welfare.

GENIUS OF U.S.

"The genius of our democracy is its room for compromise, our ability to balance liberty with authority."—Samuel Eliot Morison, historian.

TO EUROPE, MEN!

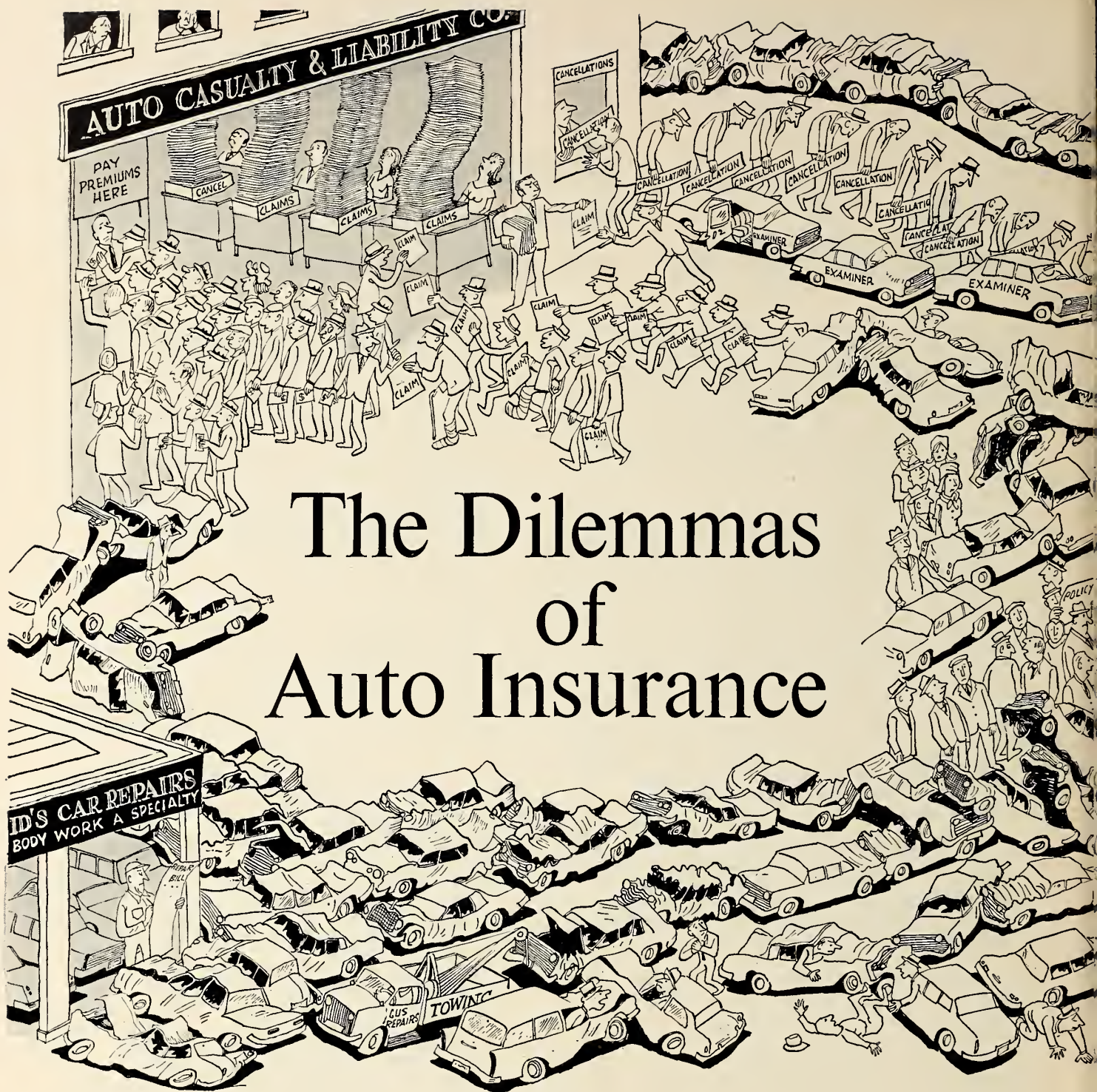
"In America, women are so important and so selfish that they can almost live without men . . . In Europe the man is god . . ." Gina Lollobrigida, Italian actress.

CONSUMER CLAMOR

"... this strong clamor for increased consumer protection has its roots in some very basic and very powerful grounds."—George R. Vila, chairman and president of Uniroyal, Inc.

3-SQUARE REMEDY

"Food may well be a key factor in braking the cycle of poverty. The remedy may be as simple and relatively inexpensive as three square meals a day."—Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.)



The Dilemmas of Auto Insurance

By R. B. PITKIN

LAST YEAR CONGRESS okayed about \$1.6 million for the Department of Transportation (one of our newer Cabinet departments) to make a two-year study of automobile insurance. The act ordering the study said in part that the present system of auto insurance is

- Inequitable
- Inadequate
- Insufficient
- Unresponsive to public needs.

A little earlier (in February 1968), in a special message to Congress on con-

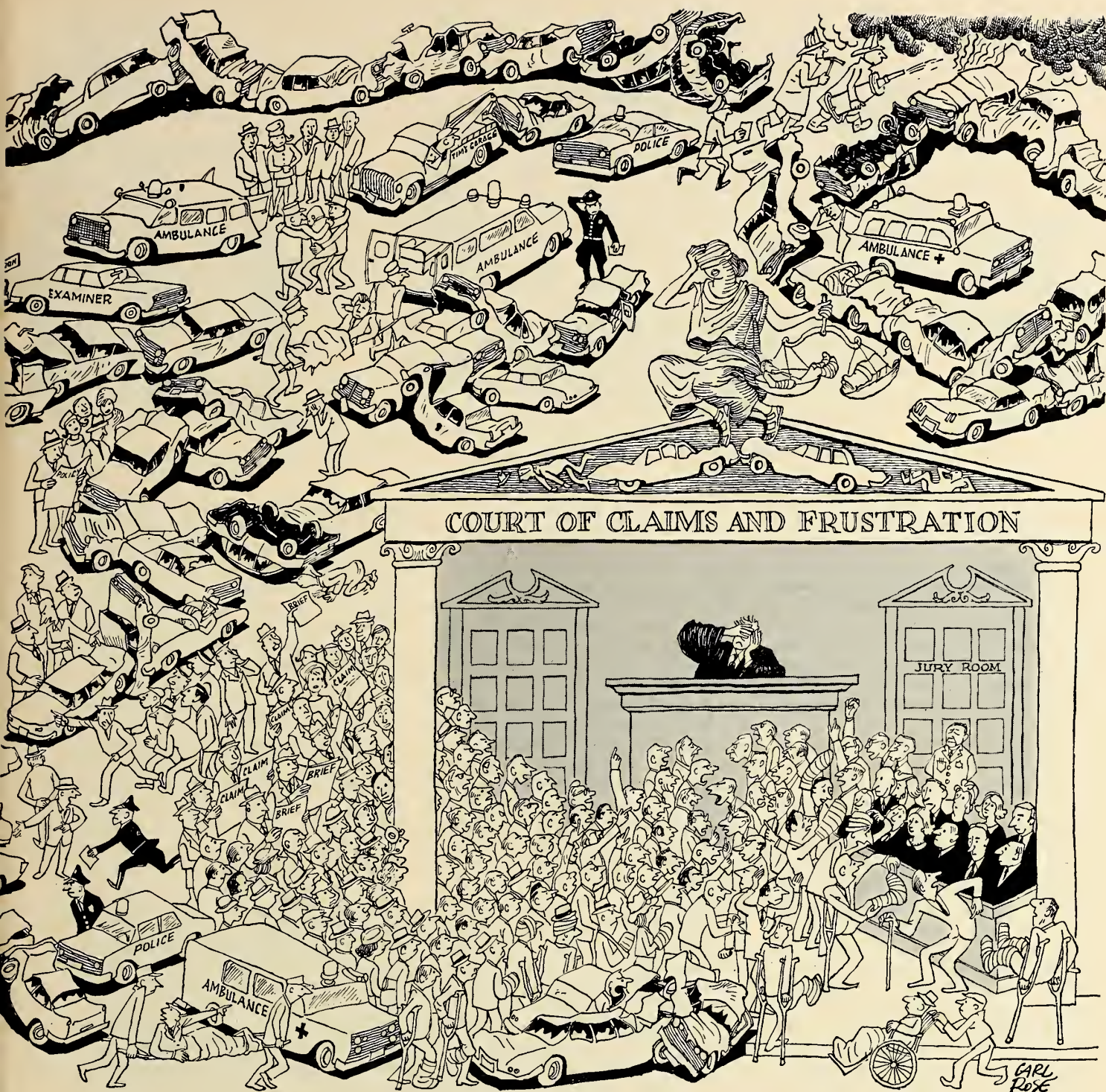
sumer problems. President Johnson had urged such a study. He cited rising auto insurance premiums; arbitrary actions of companies in refusing, cancelling or not renewing policies; bankruptcy of some insurance companies leaving claimants to go begging for millions in claims; unfair compensation to some accident victims; clogging of the courts with auto accident lawsuits that average out to 2½ years just to get to trial, etc.

That by no means exhausted the list of dissatisfactions with automobile insurance that have been steadily rising in a crescendo of complaint and indigna-

tion across the land in recent years.

The insurance companies state that many of the woes are beyond their control. They cite staggering figures on the increase of auto accidents, the spiralling costs of repairing cars, doctors bills, hospital charges, etc., all of which must be paid for in the end by those who pay premiums on auto insurance. The logjams in the courts call for legal reforms that are beyond the powers of the insurance companies to bring off, they say.

While much of this is true, the companies are also vulnerable, and know they are vulnerable, to a host of charges



of socially unjustifiable arbitrary practices that injure the public and smack of the abuse of public trust.

Such statements should be documented. In two Congressional hearings and one Congressional staff report within the last year or so there was enough documentation to curl your hair. A Washington State Senator, Karl V. Herrmann, chairman of two legislative insurance committees in Washington, told how one of the largest auto insurers in the state cancelled a client's auto policy without saying why, and signed a false name to it (T. Case). The client's at-

tempts to phone Mr. Case to find why his policy had been cancelled were met with such things as "Mr. Case is ill today," "He's out of town," etc. This added up to a conspiracy of lying to the public within the company. T. Case's first name, said Sen. Herrmann, was Tough.

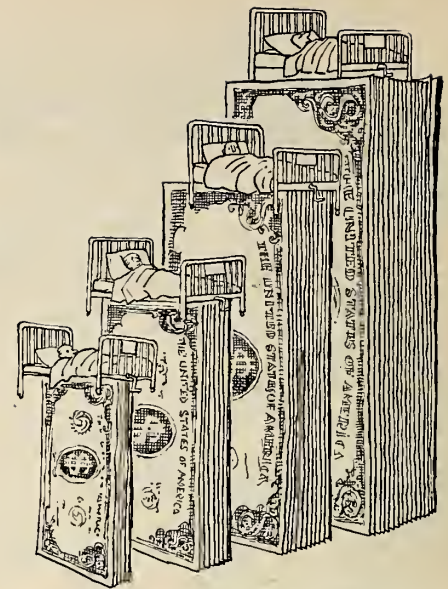
Orman Vertrees, a reporter for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, who had written some 200 articles on auto insurance, told the U.S. Senate Consumer Subcommittee that more than 30 insurance company lobbyists in Washington State had tried to have Senator Herrmann unseated as chairman of the state senate's

insurance committee for his efforts to bring about reforms and expose malpractices. (The Washington State legislative representatives of The Insurance Company of North America—or INA—put it on the record that they had both admired and supported Sen. Herrmann and didn't want to be mistaken for lobbyists who tried to unseat him and defeat his reform efforts.)

One of the commonest complaints about company practices protests the firms' denying a car owner insurance or subjecting him to exceptionally high premium charges. In the auto insurance



Auto repair, medical and hospital costs rise faster than the general inflation.



Losses from auto accidents rose from \$3 billion to \$15 billion in 21 years.

CONTINUED The Dilemmas of Auto Insurance

business this is known as "selectivity."

Under present conditions, selectivity seems necessary for company survival. But the arbitrary lengths to which it has gone have led to widespread views that it's past time for "present conditions" to be changed.

There are several ways to be "selective."

a) *Refusal.* A firm refuses to insure a car owner in the first place.

b) *Cancellation.* It insures him, but for reasons of its own—stated or unstated—cancels his policy in mid-course.

c) *Non-renewal.* It continues him to the end of his year, but tells him it won't renew his policy thereafter. (It may or may not cut back his coverage for the rest of the policy year.)

d) *High risk assignment.* It may refer him to a "high-risk" company that specializes in selling limited high-cost policies to "high risks." Or it refers him to an "assigned risk" pool. If you are told you are an "assigned risk," it's a dirty word to you as a driver. The "assigned risk" pool is a statewide pool, joined in by all or most of the firms operating in a state. It issues high cost limited policies to persons whom they have decided are poor drivers. Some states reinforce the funds of the "assigned risk" pool with taxes collected on all premiums paid in the state.

Up to a certain point there's nothing wrong with any of this in principle. As the companies rightfully say, the "high risk" firms and the "assigned risk" pools guarantee that a driver who can't get one of their regular policies can still get some sort of insurance, for a price. And, up to a point, most good drivers support the idea that they should not carry the

load of the reckless and accident-prone drivers on equal terms.

But up to what point? Evidence abounds that the companies have been socking it to perfectly good drivers by fair means and foul to the point of exasperation.

At the foulest end of the line there is ample evidence that they have been making "bad risks" of people on the flimsiest of pretexts, including false and unchecked information which would be dubious grounds even if true. In March 1968, Vertrees and Sen. Herrmann spread on the U.S. Senate record a sorry accompaniment to the case of Mr. Tough Case.

Between them they testified that firms had "bad risked" those who don't keep tidy lawns; victims of false neighborhood gossip; people maligned in bar-room chatter (by an investigator who was imbibing as he wrote down what his drinking pals said about others), etc. Cited was a firm that told one of its agents to "high risk" all of his customers who had filed a claim for damages recently, and send them to a "bulldog" or high risk subsidiary company that the firm had established. One of the victims of this order was a car owner whose only claim had been for damages when someone threw a rock through his windshield. For this he was stigmatized as a bad risk and penalized with punitive premium rates and limited protection.

A woman had been high risked because a jealous neighbor told an investigator that she was a cabaret worker who drank a lot. Actually, she was a legal secretary. In Washington, and many other states, the "accused" has no recourse,

said Herrmann. The investigative reports are privileged. A person slandered and injured may have no legal recourse or even no right to know what the report was or who filed it. "Mr. Case" is not required to say *why* he throws you out.

The Wall Street Journal was quoted as having cited a prohibitionist minister who was high risked because he had the same name as the town drunk. Investigators of such things were called "dollar detectives" at the hearings, to indicate that the companies don't pay them enough to get quality investigation. An investigator might have to file character reports on 16 to 25 strangers a day, it was said.

The Senate was told of an insurance agent who protested to his company when over 40 of his clients' policies were cancelled. He was told that the reasons for the cancellations were none of his business. Many insurance agents are unhappy with such goings on, and agents helped Sen. Herrmann's committees see the inside of auto insurance in Washington State.

The record is loaded with testimony that car owners have been high risked because they were Negroes, Indians, lived in poor neighborhoods, were old, young or held any of many jobs, such as bartender, aircraft worker, cabaret worker, beautician, barber, stevedore, warehouseman, entertainer or union representative.

In fact, reported an AFL-CIO representative, unskilled workers as such have been high risked. Several knowledgeable people told this writer that clergymen have been high risked on the theory that they think God protects them, or if they get killed at the wheel that they'll surely go to heaven. This writer was "non-renewed" on 10 days notice by the Home Insurance Co. in New Jersey in

ILLUSTRATED BY CARL ROSE



In the end, nobody but the premium paying motorist foots the bill.

1964 on false information which was termed an "exposure" from "reliable sources." The information was precise enough so that the company could have checked it out as false with a 10¢ phone call. Fortunately, another company picked us up at safe driver rates, probably because our agent knew the falseness of the Home Insurance "exposure."

Like many other drivers who have been paying premiums for 40 years, we have never filed a claim. And this, of course, is true of many of the Negroes, Indians, slum dwellers, beauticians, young people, old people, stevedores, cabaret workers, etc., who have been denied insurance or had it socked to them

as high risks under the "selective" principle.

Penalizing good drivers out-of-hand because they belong to a *class* of people who may exceed, or be suspected of exceeding, some desirable accident rate is the end result of selectivity. It has been carried to such extremes that two proposals have been advanced to bring it back to sanity and public responsibility. One is to stop being selective at all, and charge everyone the same premiums. The other is to set public standards for poor drivers based on individual driving records, established by legal regulation, and nothing else.

Probably most of us would prefer the

latter. The idea of making the proven poor drivers pay for their folly is equitable, even if penalizing good young drivers or old drivers or barbers or aircraft workers for the sins of others is not.

The history of auto insurance selectivity is one of competition. One insurance company executive was quoted at the 1968 hearings as having said he didn't know quite how they got into it. The more good drivers and the fewer bad drivers it insures, the more money a company can make. It was said that Sears Roebuck's Allstate started the race to insure only the safest drivers some years ago, by a process of trying to refuse insurance to as many bad risks as possible. This cut losses on claims. It permitted offering lower rates for good risks than the firms that hadn't gone selective yet.

In order to compete, they all had to follow suit. Soon a mad race was on to weed out every possible bad risk, and thus save enough to be able to appeal, with favorable rates, for the insurance of the safer drivers.

This intense selectivity is now called "creaming the market." It has gone to such lengths that some witnesses said that it wasn't insurance any more. It was approaching the absurdity of only insuring people who will never need it anyway.

Plainly, even if the embarrassing hanky-panky of foul play, unfairness and autocratic rule over the insurance fates of car owners is denied the companies by law, the problem of selectivity will not be solved. If one company selects, even without being arrogant about it, the others must select too, or die. Uniform regulation by law of as much selectivity as may be wise and fair seems to be a necessity all over the country.



States, counties, cities are divided into territories in which different premium rates on auto insurance are charged for cars garaged in them.

The Dilemmas of Auto Insurance

Otherwise, once the sobering effect of recent publicity wears off, the mad race must start all over. This brings us to the dilemma of who controls the enormous public interest in insurance.

Today there is no possibility of uniform nationwide control of insurance practices.

Prior to 1945, a Supreme Court decision ruled that insurance is interstate commerce, and is subject to federal control. But in 1944-45, during WW2, Congress wrote and passed the McCarran-Ferguson Act, delegating its control over insurance to the states. Typically, each of the 50 states has a state insurance commission which is supposed to protect the public's interests by regulating insurance practices and rates.

What was said about the state commissions at the 1968 hearings was varied. In fact, they are not all the same by a long shot. Attorney Peyton Ford testified for the national association of state commissioners when its main spokesman was involved in a plane accident en route to the Senate hearings.

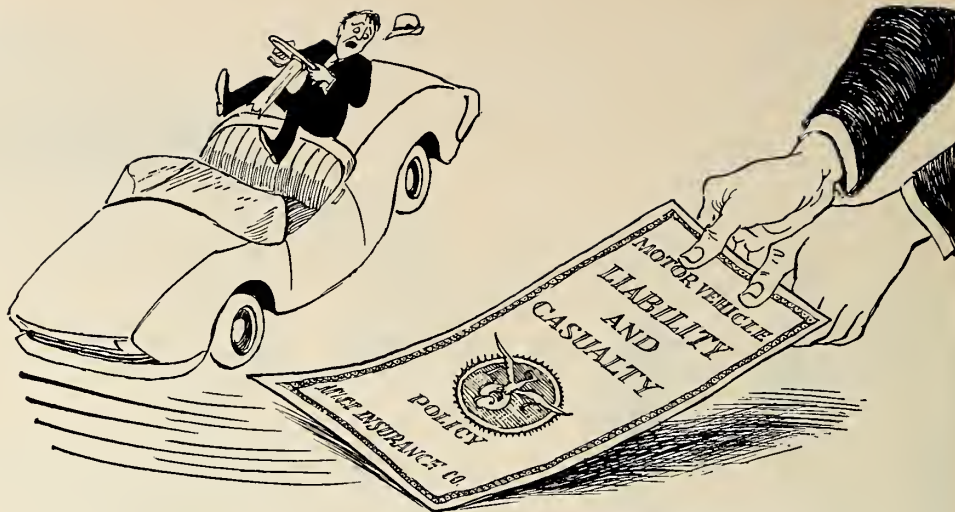
Mr. Ford based what he said mainly on the prepared statement of the absent spokesman. It is hard to read it as anything but a defense of the insurance companies.* Other witnesses said that some of the state commissions either seem to side with the companies against their customers, or are so hamstrung in their powers or staffs by their legislatures that they cannot effectively control insurance practices or handle complaints.

Mr. Ford cited cancellations of auto policies in 1963 in seven states (which averaged out to 1.15%) as indicative that the problem was "being met." Sen. Warren Magnuson interrupted to say that 1% could be hundreds or thousands of people.

In fact, 1.15% of cancellations per year, nationwide, would be 115,000 cancellations among our hundred million drivers in ten years.

The commissioner from Rhode Island, Ralph Petrarca, was next on the stand. Plainly a maverick, Mr. Petrarca was then supporting a radical change of auto insurance in Rhode Island espoused by then Gov. John H. Chafee. He faulted Mr. Ford's testimony by saying that the cancellation figures hardly told the story of denial of insurance anyway, because non-renewal was a bigger problem.

The association of state commis-



Arbitrary refusal or cancellation of car insurance has raised an outcry.

sioners later sent a letter for the record giving samples of non-renewals. It showed them at about the same level as cancellations—for the states selected for citation. A reader of the record cannot tell if the states cited are typical, worse or better than all 50 states in their cancellations and non-renewals. Nor did the testimony go into reasons for cancellation, some of which are perfectly justified, such as non-payment of premiums or driver's license revocation. Thus the testimony of the commissioners as a group seemed vaguer than one would want from a body whose members control insurance practices.

Recent rules on cancellation and non-renewal laid down by the Texas controlling board were read into the record. Terminating insurance for old age was tabooed. The only other significant restriction on non-renewal was a requirement of 30 days notice to the customer. This gives him a chance to cancel himself and run to another company before his non-renewal becomes official. But one company's general circular to some insurance agents was cited by Sen. Herrmann. It warned them to be wary of clients changing companies, though Herrmann said it had been withdrawn after it was publicized in Washington State.** The same circular gave other tips to agents about who is undesirable that would hardly endear it to the general public. Almost everyone was undesirable except those in the same social and economic class as the insurance agent. Richer and poorer were to be shunned quite generally.

Of course the state commissioners in those states where these things happen cannot avoid the criticism that their system doesn't protect the public as it is supposed to. This whether it is their fault or not. It is a failure of regulation in the public interest, whatever the reason,

and the regulation falls on them whether in fair or unfair circumstances. Herrmann said the Washington State insurance commission lacked the staff to handle its 2,000 customer complaints a month.

In a few recent years some 80 high-risk insurance companies went bankrupt. Those that were in auto insurance left a minimum of \$16 million in auto accident claims unpayable. Some of these firms were characterized at the hearings as being undercapitalized, and, in some cases, fly-by-night outfits. There was a high concentration of them in a few states. Quite a few were spread thinly in other states. Altogether they did business in 35 states. Here, too, whether it is the fault of the commissions or their legislatures, the regulatory system failed in state hands. This led to the first of recent serious efforts to bring the federal government back into auto insurance. Proposals started in Congress a few years ago for a federal fund to guarantee claims by accident victims against bankrupt insurers. It's a proposal something like federal deposit insurance on bank accounts.

Organized insurance companies opposed it. Their stated reasons minimized the importance of the claims of accident victims against bankrupt companies, but it would be a fair guess that opposition to federal controls is at the heart of their objections.

Many witnesses at the hearings felt that some degree of federal control of auto insurance is necessary. Nobody ventured to say whether federal control should be absolute, replacing the state commissions, or merely impose some federal regulation on top of continuing state control. They hoped the Department of Transportation study would help settle that. Several witnesses said that it was impossible for the states, acting separately, to exercise enough control over firms that operate all over the country.

* Readers might not agree with this opinion. The testimony may be found in "Investigation of Auto Insurance, Hearings before the Consumer Subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce, U.S. Senate, on S.J. Res. 129, March 12, 13 and 14, 1968." Sen. Warren Magnuson, chairman.

** Since wide publicity has been given to some practices cited here, companies and state commissions have been curtailing some of them.

Several aspects of premium-rate setting under state control came under fire. Among these were:

(a) The fairly common practice of groups of companies joining in mutually-agreed requests for higher premiums, instead of separately (hence competitively), as in California.

(b) Prohibition of public hearings on requested rate increases, or public information on them, until they are in effect, in some states. One insurance journal was quoted as calling public hearings "a circus."

(c) A double bookkeeping system, one showing all of a company's financial rec-

Recently, some of the states, such as New Jersey, have required that at least some of the investment earnings must be reported when filing for new rates.

The firms, and many of the state commissions, were fairly unanimous in saying that the double bookkeeping is good practice in the complex financial world of insurance, and the only legal one in some states.

This was not clearly explained, and perhaps its rationale cannot be explained simply.

The insurance companies show a low earnings rate on their capital compared to 65 other American businesses (a lit-

edgeable. What one witness said was true, another might say was a distortion. These differences often reflected the particular interest of the witness.

There was wide disagreement on the effect of selectivity by address. The states, and even the cities, are broken down into territories where different premium rates prevail, based on where your car is normally garaged. The Aetna company put it on the Senate record that if all were charged the same, some rural dwellers in Washington State would pay 90% more, some city dwellers 28% less. This to challenge a statement of Sen. Herrmann that nobody would pay more than 5% more if all were charged the same.

At least every witness but one at the Senate hearings said he approved of the proposed study by the Department of Transportation to cut through all the froth. The one opponent of the study was Rep. William Cahill, of N.J., who said that it was too late for a two-year delay. Congressional action should come faster and enough was already known to get it going, Cahill said.

There was plenty of airing of the following additional ills of auto insurance:

1. People with small claims in auto accidents may get more than their due, because it's cheaper for the companies to settle than to contest.

2. People who claim serious damage, justifying large settlements, may get less than their due, and have to wait interminably for it. The companies may contest large claims in court, because it's worthwhile. The average court delay nationally is 2½ years to come to trial. In some cities there's no delay, but in others, such as Chicago, there are five- and six-year logjams. After long years, witnesses may be dead, removed or their memory fogged about who went through the red light.

In the end juries may give different awards to people suffering the same accident injury, or different lawyers may negotiate larger or smaller settlements for identical losses. Faced with all this, many people entitled to large settlements give up and settle for less to get something. This hurts precisely those who may have been most injured. They may have large hospital bills that can't wait for years. When a claimant goes to a lawyer to collect, it's usually on a contingent basis that awards the lawyer a third or more of the settlement.

(Continued on page 48)

Some accident victims collect far more, others far less than their due.

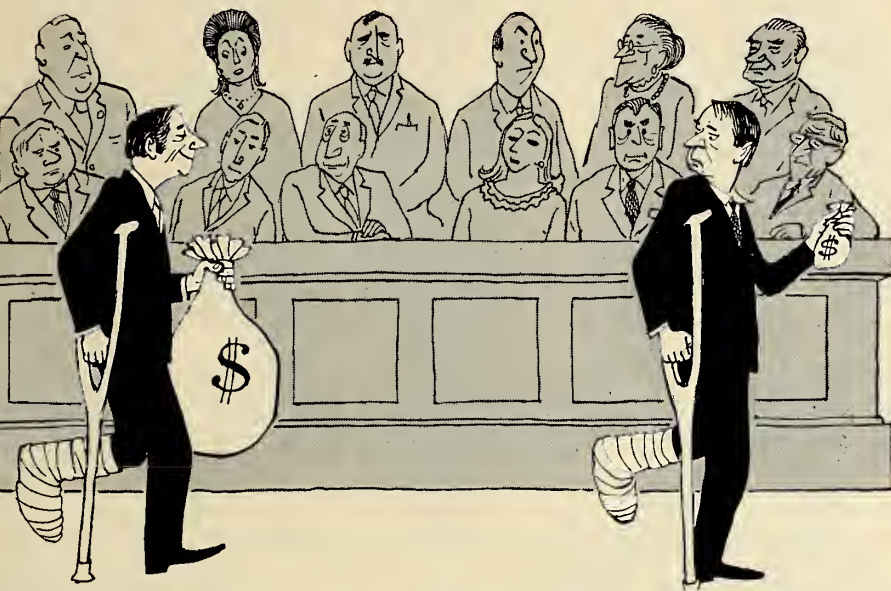
ord, and a more limited one used to justify requests for hiking premiums.

The insurance firms make most of their money from investing the sums they hold. But it is the common practice to show only the difference between premiums paid in and the company's expenses when seeking higher premiums. It is typical that this difference (called the "underwriting experience") will show a loss, often a substantial one, when a firm is solidly in the black because of what it earns on investing premium payments that it holds.

Though all the going firms are making money, this double system permits them to show consistent loss figures to state commissions when they file for higher premiums.

tle over 4%). It is not clear how much of this comparison is real, and how much may arise from different methods of bookkeeping in different businesses. Nor did the hearings illuminate such questions.

This is no idle comment. Throughout the hearings there was a wide discrepancy in mere figures and facts offered by different people, all presumably knowl-



An accident that might have resulted in two claims twenty years ago may now cause a pileup resulting in 20 or more claims.

By LOLA FIRPO

LONG BEFORE the word "corny" was invented, people all over the world indulged in corny humor, and set aside the first of April as the corniest day in the year. For hundreds of years April Fool humor has pretty much followed a few simple patterns. Some even say this has been going on for thousands of years. One old English document claims that April Fooling started all the way back when Noah sent his two doves on a fool's errand—to find land before any had risen above the Flood.

April Fool is a rather impressive folly-day. Not only is it "celebrated" throughout the Western world, and reversed with the seasons in the Southern Hemisphere to occur in November and December in various places, but it has roots in the dimmest ancient history of India. Pure corn, it appears, is one of the basic common denominators of humanity.

Those historians who refuse to trace April Fool to Noah or the Persians or the Greek gods or the Romans or the French usually claim that it began with the Hindus of ancient India on their Huli holidays at the end of March. Then Indians of high and low degree alike would delight in sending people on silly errands, usually to call on someone who wasn't home.

If this is true it best explains why the silly errand was long the standard April Fool joke in old Europe.

For many years in Britain, sending a trusting soul on an impossible mission was just about the only April Fool joke practiced. A favorite version, especially in northern England and Scotland, was the gowk (or gawk) hunt. In Scotland, the victim wasn't called an April Fool, he was an April Gowk, or cuckoo. (In France he's an April Fish and in India a Huli Fool.)

The gowk hunt in Scotland works something like this. Sandy, an eager young man anxious to please, is handed a note by MacDonald. He is asked to take it to MacTavish, who lives not far off. He's told that it is a request to borrow MacTavish's axe. Sandy dashes off to MacTavish and hands him the note. What it really says is: "This is the first of April. Hunt the gowk another mile."

"Sorry, lad. I'm using my axe today. Take this note on to MacIver."

MacIver hands Sandy on to Duncan, Duncan to MacGowan, and so on, until a half-mile errand has taken Sandy by degrees some ten miles from home. When the last trickster explains things, Sandy hikes home to find a committee waiting to laugh at him.

None of this actually destroys Sandy's faith in mankind. It has made him wise and initiated him into the ways of grown men. Come later Aprils and he'll be passing the gowk along himself.

Other old time "sleeveless errands" (as the British called them) were just as corny, just as merciless to the innocent, and just as popular generation after generation. The naive were sent for a half-penny's worth of crocodile quills, a pint of pigeon's milk, or told to get from the bookseller a copy of the "History of Eve's Grandmother." Cobblers in English villages did a booming joke business whacking youngsters with straps when they showed up on April first to say they'd been sent for some "strap oil."

Long before Americans invented the left handed monkey wrench, the sky hook or the bucket of steam to be fetched from the meanest man in town, very small London boys were sent by older brothers to see the statue of Lord Nelson step down from its pedestal at sunset on April first. Lovesick young men rushed to visit girls who'd never given them the time of day, on receipt of passionate notes that were only forgeries.

good price for each black cat delivered.

With the passage of time, many other kinds of practical jokes were added to the "sleeveless errands." Sometimes they were just sly, like pinning an absurd note (such as "kick me") on someone's back to evoke laughter he couldn't understand as he walked down the street. Usually little children did such things. For others there was generally a "sporting code." The victim must be induced to "bite" on something, there must be no malice, and there must be an element of truth in any deceit, even if only a pun. Thus: "Hey, your shoes are untied." If the victim looked down he was greeted with: "April Fool. They are on tied." Or: "Did you know there are some holes in your coat?" Followed by: "April Fool. Button holes."

The wallet prank became so common at times in many countries that on April first no self-respecting citizen would pay any attention to a "lost" wallet on the

April Fool... Our Corniest Day

All Fools' Day may be more widely celebrated

than any other fixed occasion, but less seems

to be known about it, except for its "humor."

England's gentry invented elaborate hoaxes. In March 1860, hundreds of Londoners received engraved invitations bearing a resemblance to the formal notes customarily emanating from Buckingham Palace. They read: "Tower of London—Admit the Bearer and Friend to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions, on Sunday, April 1. Admitted only at the White Gate. It is particularly requested that no gratuities be given to the Wardens or their Assistants."

Horse-drawn cabs, whose passengers were scrupulously committed to giving no gratuities, rattled around Tower Hill throughout that Sunday morning searching for the non-existent White Gate.

A few years later about 800 people, all carrying black cats, arrived on April 1 at a London address which turned out to be a vacant house. They'd come in answer to a newspaper ad that offered a

sidewalk. It would surely be yanked, via a string, behind a fence should he reach for it, and then the laughs would start. This gave rise, true or false, to tales of the genuinely lost wallet ignored by hundreds of citizens until a small child picked it up and made off with the \$80 or \$100 in it.

Of course, there is an element of contest in many of the April Fool pranks that elevates them a little above their apparent corniness. If the intended wallet victim casually spots the string and steps on it before making off with the bait he puts himself one up on his foolers. If, when told you had holes in your coat, you simply looked straight ahead and said: "How interesting, will you pass me the toast?" you scored at least a field goal (even if you did examine your coat in private later on).

April Fooling has risen and fallen in popularity from time to time. There have



For many years this kind of thing was tops as an April 1 sport.

been periods in many countries when it was so generally observed that whole populations arose on the morning of April Fool's Day suspicious and wary of anything and everything. One of the stock stories of all historians of April Fool is the tale of the Duke and Duchess of Lorraine who tried to escape from Louis XIII's prison at Nantes on April 1. A maid saw through their disguises and ran to tell the guards, "Hey, the prisoners are escaping!" But the guards leaned back and roared: "April Fish! April Fish!" The governor was threatening to punish the girl for her stupid joke when word came that the Duke and Duchess had made good their getaway.

When a nation is going through a real binge of April Fooling, it has been held by some that if you don't hook your victim at the breakfast table before he is fully awake you might as well forget

it. But those who have lived through such periods say it is almost impossible not to be taken in time and time again if everyone is out to trip you up. Indeed, superstitions have arisen that anything you try on April 1 will end up foolishly. In 1810, this was so widely held that Napoleon Bonaparte was considered daring to have married Maria Louisa on April 1. One of the English Dukes of Orford is supposed to have said that neither foresight nor vigilance can keep people from folly on April 1. The smallest children can deceive the gravest citizens, lenders will accept bad risks, women will marry the wrong men, mathematicians will make errors and politicians lose support. And, he added, the people would be disappointed if it were not so.

In the United States, April Fool has taken almost any direction that whim has steered it over the years. If there is any

written history of April Fool activities here comparable to what is found in English literature, we have been unable to find it.

The phony phone call to the zoo or aquarium or museum is widely publicized here, though it is a worldwide prank. Someone you trust leaves a note on your desk to call Mr. Lyon, or Mr. Baer at 123-4567, or Mr. Fish or Doctor Salmon at 890-1234. The first number is the zoo, and the second the aquarium. On April 1, 1946, New York's Bronx zoo received 2,809 phonecalls. Of them, 2,708 were for Mr. or Mrs. Wolfe, Mr. Behr, Fox or Lyon, not to mention Miss Ellie Fant. The Bronx zoo now employs special April 1 operators who intercept all calls and only route those to officials that are not concerned with monkey business. But we have no monopoly on this game. The Melbourne, Australia, Botanic Gardens had 90 calls on one April Fool's Day for Mr. Gardiner. It actually had two Mr. Gardiners gardening for it, but the calls weren't for them.

There are other variations, such as leaving notes to call Mr. Mower at a number belonging to a golf course or a city park, Mr. Hammer at a hardware store, Mr. Sawycr at the carpenter's union local, or Prof. Lenz or Dr. Belloughs at a camera store or studio.

A couple of generations ago, young Americans could read instructions for less "sophisticated" pranks.

"The Young Folks Cyclopaedia of Games and Sports," by John Champlin and Arthur Bostwick, published in New York in 1890 by Henry Holt and Company, ran to 831 pages of interesting things to do. Under "All Fools' Day" on page 4, it told how to:

1. Dip balls of cotton in melted chocolate so they will "look like chocolate creams."
2. Coat half a lead pencil with frosting so that it will "look like white candy."
3. Cover an upside-down tin pie plate with frosting so it will seem to be a cake.
4. Line and fill a glass with tissue paper, and cover the top with beaten egg white to make a fake custard.
5. Bake a pie-crust with sawdust inside it.
6. Put soap in the family larder, cut to look like cheese.

"These deceptions," said the Cyclopaedia, "served once or twice during a meal will be almost certain to catch someone." Which reminds us that at about age eight we put salt in the breakfast sugar bowl one April first. On tasting his coffee our Daddy sent us flying across the breakfast nook.

The Cyclopaedia also showed how you could make an April Fool whistle, designed so that when someone blew in it a cloud of flour blew back in his face. This sort of thing never loses its popularity, as witness "Sock-it-to-me time" on

CONTINUED April Fool...Our Corniest Day

Laugh-In, the comedy television show.

In the memory of this writer it was possible to buy April Fool candies filled with pepper. They were better to give than to receive. Another old time trick played up to the instincts of people to kick inoffensive things. Many an American has stubbed a toe on April 1 by kicking an "empty" paper bag or old hat on the sidewalk that had a brick in it.



The lost wallet gag has been pulled in many variations.

Sometimes an April Fool joke turns out to be an unintended service. Someone falsely told a man in Goshen, N.Y., that his wife had called asking him to come home immediately. He entered a house full of smoke. His wife had left an electric iron turned on while she visited a neighbor. Thanks to the husband's return, damage was under \$100.

Sedate newspapers and journals as well as college magazines have often published special April Fool issues full of phony news or non-facts told with a straight face. Before WW2, a Vienna newspaper simply reported that three American submarines had come up from the Black Sea on a visit to the Danube Canal. Throngs rushed down to the canal to see the non-existent subs. In 1934, the April Fool edition of a foreign newspaper published a phony photo of a man flying under his own power. Several American papers picked up the story in good faith. Many years ago, the London Illustrated Weekly published a series of full-page illustrated "interesting facts" somewhat

remindful of Ripley's later "Believe It or Not" cartoons—but you were a sucker if you believed it. One showed the Eiffel Tower lying on its side, barely stretching a city block, to show that it was "really" much shorter than supposed. Another projected a large ocean liner into a city street where it towered over the city to show how (fictitiously) enormous it was.

For its first April cover of 1943, the *Saturday Evening Post* used a Norman Rockwell painting of an old couple apparently playing checkers before a fireplace. At a glance it seemed just that, but Rockwell painted deliberate "errors" into the picture. A sleeping "dog" was, on inspection, a deer. An ancestor's hands rested over the picture frame in which he was portrayed. Both a faucet and a U.S. mail box protruded from the living room wall. The woman wore ice skates and the man roller skates.

Medicine bottle and glass stood in thin air. A decorative dish resting on edge on the mantel held bacon and eggs. The woman had a live skunk in her lap, the man a bird in his bathrobe pocket. The letters "aprilfool" replaced numbers on a clock face. Houseplants sprang from the rug and bore milk bottles. A pencil over the man's left ear had erasers on both ends. Readers were invited to say how many errors they found, and Rockwell later said that though he'd planned 45 of them a letter from South America claimed there were 184.

Stories of how April Fool began are contradictory, and sometimes so preposterous that some of them may have been ages-old scholarly jokes themselves.

An English journal, "British Apollo," explained in 1708 that when the early Romans in the time of Romulus lacked wives, they held festivities on April 1, to which the neighboring Sabines flocked. The Romans then seized their women. This was a "prank" on the Sabine women, said the editor, and it began the custom of playing pranks on April 1. A reader sent in a long poem of protest saying that the Sabine women would have been April Fools if the Romans had ignored them.

The story is far-fetched, and may have reflected the April humor of the editor of "British Apollo."

In 1779, the London Public Advertiser claimed that Noah had played the first April Fool joke by sending his doves out to find land before the waters had subsided. The Public Advertiser claimed that this was handed down in Jewish legend, and long centuries later the Romans learned it by way of wise men from the East. There's no better authority for this yarn today than the Public Advertiser, whose link with Noah was not explained.

Many scholarly theorizers connect April Fool, in one way or another, with the custom of all ancient peoples of celebrating the arrival of spring—either with a great period of feasting (as the Roman Saturnalias or the Hindu Huli holidays) or with more sober religious observances, such as the Lenten season and the Passover. Whatever the shape of the observances, they grew to a climax with ceremonies and rejoicing and ended



Back about 1880 a large crowd of people, each carrying a black cat, showed up at an empty house in London in answer to a newspaper ad.



"I was asked to call Mr. Lyon at this number."

with merrymaking. From this it is logical to suppose that making sport of one another might have ended it all.

Over the centuries, that part of such observances that turned to playing pranks on one another separated itself from the more formal spring celebrations and took on an identity of its own whose origin slowly became lost in time.

There are many explanations of April Fool that try to trace an exact evolution of April Fool's Day by this path. An explanation tracing April Fool to the French relates it to an annual passion play in which the mocking of Christ was regularly enacted. It was called *Passion d'Avril* (April Passion). With time, the enactment of mockery became separated from its religious meaning. April became a time to mock one another for sheer sport. The name was corrupted into *Poisson d'Avril* (April Fish).

Others doubt this and think that the French "April Fish" simply refers to the easy hooking of a poor fish.

But April Fool is celebrated all over the world, and nearly always at a time connected with the coming of spring. In the Latin lands below the equator its shifting to November is suggestive, and so is the ancient playing of pranks at

the end of the Indian Huli holidays in late March. In South America, it is called The Day of the Innocents, meaning innocent victims of pranks.

There is another logical explanation that traces April Fool to the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1582. This, by papal decree, moved New Year's Day from the end of March to the beginning of January, as Charles IX had done 18 years earlier in France. The change was resisted by many people; in fact, it took about 130 years before all Europe accepted it. There were religious overtones to accepting or resisting the change. Catholics accepted speedily while Protestants resisted. As the story goes, those who resisted went on celebrating New Year's Day at the end of March, three months after everyone else had done so. This made them the butt of the humor of their neighbors. They'd receive phony New Year's presents, or be invited to New Year's parties by supposed sympathizers, only to be mocked as fools for observing New Year's at the start of April. When the January date slowly became accepted by everyone, the humor of the old phony New Year's stunts was too good to forget, and so April 1 ling-

ered on as a permanent season for practical jokes.

While this is believable, it hardly explains April Fool as a worldwide custom with more ancient roots elsewhere.

The theory that it grew out of merry-making at the end of annual celebrations of the arrival of spring is probably sound. There is probably no one single explanation of how that happened, but many. The Romans held a Feast of Fools, and the ribald Feast of the Ass on 12th Night was common in the middle ages in Europe. The ancient custom of celebrating masques in Mardi Gras fashion lent itself to tomfoolery, since disguises and prank playing go hand in hand.

Most April Fool humor depends on a betrayal of a trust. You may be successfully deceived because you habitually believe the person who tricks you; or because he plants some nonsense in the things you daily trust; or warps in some way your common experience; or exploits your usual habits to make you appear ridiculous.

This element of betrayal has dictated that most April Fool humor be as innocent and corny as it usually is. If there is malice, or if it is overdone, or does any harm beyond mere embarrassment, enmity may result. The character who feels impelled to set some sort of a record of making fools out of as many of his friends as possible as often as possible may end up with no friends and nobody trusting him.

The English essayist Addison, writing in the *Spectator* in 1711, showed nothing but contempt for a neighbor who "makes his boast that for these ten years he has not made less than a hundred April fools. My landlady had a falling out with him for sending every one of her children on some 'sleeveless' errand . . . Nay, my landlady herself did not escape him. The empty fellow has laughed upon these conceits ever since."

It was eager beavers of this sort who impelled the English "Poor Robin's Almanac" to run the following poem more than 100 years ago:

"It is a thing to be disputed,
Which is the greatest fool reputed.
The man who innocently went
Or he who him designedly sent."

Charles Lamb spoke up for the reliability of a friend who takes your April Fool jokes with good humor. In an April 1st essay he said "the more laughable blunders a man shall commit in your company, the more tests that he will not betray you." In general, those who have philosophized about April Fool's Day have had kinder words to say for the victim than the prankster. One gives trust, the other betrays.

But philosophers are seldom connoisseurs of corn.

THE END

ILLUSTRATED BY GEORGE WOODBRIDGE

WASHINGTON
PRO & CON



Opposing Views by Congressmen on The Question...

SHOULD THE UNITED

THE METRIC SYSTEM of measurement was legalized by the Congress in 1866; however, it was recognized earlier in our history when our monetary system was decimalized in 1792. In 1875 the United States became a signatory to the "Treaty of the Meter" and received copies of this original model for international meter and kilogram measurement. In 1893 the Secretary of the Treasury approved an order that the yard and pound within the United States be based upon the meter and kilogram. Consequently, today the ultimate standards in the United States are metric standards.

Many of our industries have already discovered the advantages of the precision, efficiency and simplicity of the metric system and are presently using it. These include the pharmaceutical, chemical, electric power, photography, optometry and electronics industries. In addition, there is certain utilization in government, including the Coast and Geodetic Survey for triangulation surveys; the U.S. Army for weapons and associated fire directional and coordination equipment, and for measurement of linear distances; and the Navy in scoring target distances. Research centers of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration use it in technical reports and publications and in laboratory operations.

Today, over 90% of the population of the world and over 75% of the world's industrial production are under the metric system. Of some 106 countries there are only four that are not on the metric system. Of these four, three—Canada, Australia and New Zealand—are all moving in the direction of metric, and the United States, the fourth in the group, will soon stand alone. Obviously, this will have a decided effect on the United States.

Recently the Congress passed the bill H.R. 3136, sponsored by the Honorable George P. Miller, Chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, calling for a study of the impact that the presently increasing use of the metric system by other nations in the world is having on the United States. This will answer many questions

dealing with such problems as cost, time and procedures involved in increased use of the metric system.

The U.S.'s balance of payments position will grow steadily worse as the rest of the world continues to go metric. Discrepancy between our units and those in use elsewhere may deny to our manufacturing exporters much of the world market currently developing as the emerging nations industrialize and become metric nations. In addition to this loss of market, and despite the permissive use of the system since 1866 and partial conversion in many areas, failure to be completely under the metric system continues to cost millions of dollars each year.

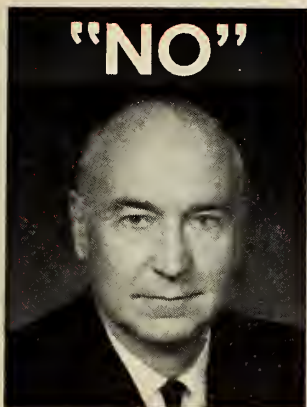


Rep. B. F. Sisk (D-Calif.)
16th District

Bernie Sisk

If you wish to let your Congressman or one of your Senators know how you feel on this big

STATES ADOPT THE METRIC SYSTEM?



Rep. Dave Martin (R-Nebr.)
3rd District

NO USEFUL PURPOSE would be served at this time by placing the United States on a mandatory metric system. Currently, many of our industries use the metric system for industrial or technical purposes only, specifically the science industries allied with our space and medical programs. The cost of a change-over to the metric system in the

United States would cost billions of dollars in addition to chaotic confusion among our citizens.

Under existing law the metric system is, and has been, recognized as a legal and acceptable unit of measurement since 1866. We are free to choose either the metric system or our present one for our use. Industry is free to choose which unit they desire and they don't have to worry about running afoul of the law. Major manufacturers and exporters of various machinery and tools in this country have already adopted a double standard in the production of some of their products and replacement parts. Requiring them to manufacture everything on a metric system of measurements would not better our trade at all but, on the contrary, would cost the U.S. economy billions of dollars to be paid by industry to convert its manufacturing equipment. There are also millions of consumers in this country who would not like the idea.

Can you imagine the American housewife going to

the grocery store and instead of buying a pound of bacon, butter or what not, she would have to purchase one kilo? Instead of our present system of inches, feet, yards and miles, we would measure everything under the metric system in centimeters, meters and kilometers.

The description in your abstract of the lot on which your home rests would have to be converted from feet to meters. Speedometers on automobiles would have to be changed from miles to kilometers. All of our road maps with distances between cities would have to be corrected. The confusion would be endless.

Total estimated cost of conversion to the metric system by industry in the United States has been estimated as high as \$15 billion-plus. All of our citizens who have completed their education would have to relearn measurements under the metric system.

There has been no demand from the average American citizen for this change-over. The demand has come simply from a very small group of scientists.

During recent House debate on a resolution to authorize a study of the metric system, no evidence was given that the American people are going to reap any benefits under a metric system, nor is there proof that any person, group or business is suffering under the use of our present system.

If the metric system is as popular and good as all its proponents claim, then it will prevail on its own merit.

Dave Martin



I have read in The American Legion Magazine for April the arguments in PRO & CON: Should The United States Adopt The Metric System?

IN MY OPINION THE UNITED STATES SHOULD ADOPT ☐
SHOULD NOT ADOPT ☐ THE METRIC SYSTEM.

SIGNED _____

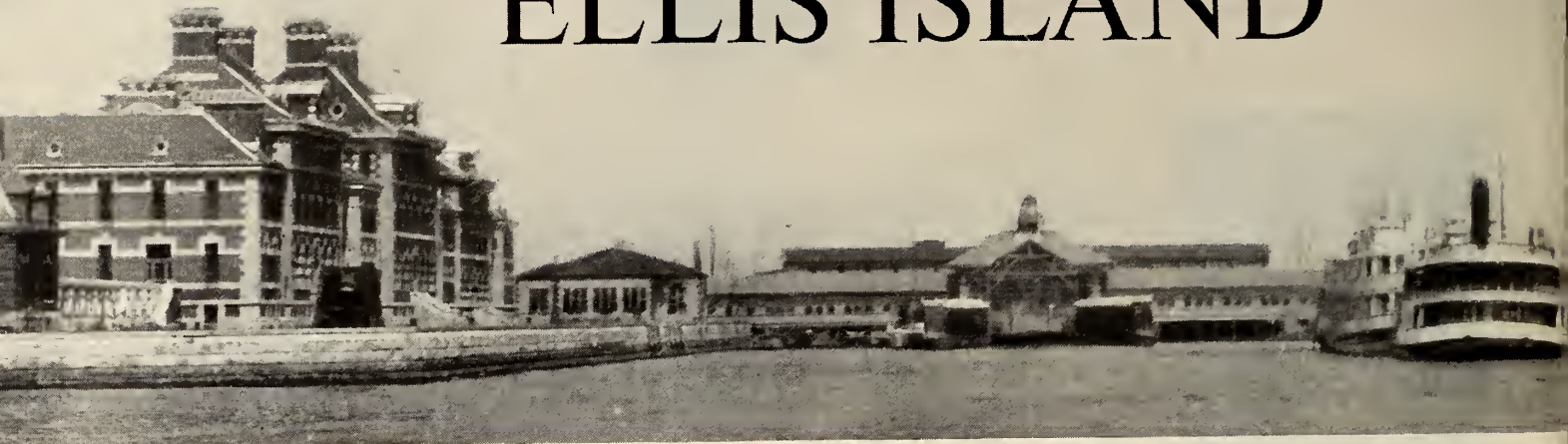
ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____

issue, fill out the "ballot" and mail it to him. →

You can address any Representative c/o U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; any Senator c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

THE STORY OF ELLIS ISLAND



Ellis Island today looks much as it did in the 20's (above). The receiving building (right) was the third to be built during Ellis' 63

The history of an island that began as a spit of land in New York Harbor and became the threshold to America for millions of immigrants.

By **ROBERT ANGUS**

RISING OUT OF New York Harbor is an oversized Byzantine temple of red brick. Abandoned for more than 14 years and set against a backdrop of grimy piers and railyards, it's still a commanding sight for tourists on their way to the Statue of Liberty or Staten Island. Today it stands virtually empty and silent. Once its drafty corridors echoed to the steps of thousands of immigrants.

That's Ellis Island, 27.5 acres of choice real estate just off the main shipping channel in New York Harbor. From 1891 to 1954, it played host to better than 10% of our population and became the world's biggest and best-known immigrant station. Today, it's just 513,000 square feet of abandoned buildings (35 in all).

Although most Americans think of Ellis only in terms of its peak years as a processing station for immigrants (roughly 1897 to 1920), the island has a long and colorful history. When the Dutch settled Nieuw Amsterdam in the 1600's, the Mohegan Indians were using Ellis and a somewhat larger island nearby as an oyster fishery and resort. In fact, if a young buck from one of the

tribes that ranged northern New Jersey really wanted to impress his girl on a summer evening, he'd row her out to Ellis for an oyster bake.

In 1630, a Dutchman named Mynher Paauw bought the three Oyster Islands (Ellis, Liberty and a third island which appeared only at low tide and has since disappeared) from the Indians for an unspecified amount of goods. Mynher Paauw got about 3.3 acres of land. Ellis was little more than the tip of a rock peeping above the surface at high tide. Liberty Island (formerly Bedloe's, where the Statue of Liberty stands) was only a fraction of its present size. Nevertheless, Mynher Paauw went into the oyster fishery business, set up a casino on Ellis Island and quickly recouped his investment.

When the British occupied Nieuw Amsterdam, Gov. Edmund Andros seized the tiny rock and in 1674 granted it to a crony, Capt. William Dyre, customs collector in the Port of New York. Captain Dyre, one of the city's first mayors, sold it on April 23, 1686, to Thomas Lloyd. Lloyd paid \$510—part cash and the rest a parcel of real estate on lower Broadway. When the New York legislators met in 1683 to draw the boundaries of their colony, they didn't think Ellis

Island worth including (thus laying the groundwork for lawsuits more than 200 years later). However, in 1691, they changed their minds and stretched New York's boundaries to include Lloyd's oyster fishing ground and resort. Lloyd died in 1696 and the island was put up for sale to settle his estate.

For nearly 100 years the island now called Ellis attracted little attention and its owners are hard to trace. There is a record of a Seaman Anderson who mutinied and was hanged there for piracy about 1765. During this period it came into possession of the man whose name it bears. On January 20, 1785, Samuel Ellis, a farmer of 1 Greenwich Street, New York City and Bergen County, N.J., offered for sale "that pleasant situated island called Oyster Island lying in York Bay. . . ." Ellis apparently had trouble unloading the island. When he died in 1794 it was still part of his estate.

On April 21, 1794, the Army, ignoring the private ownership, began to fortify Ellis. George Washington, among others, had realized that the island was essential to the harbor defense.

Meanwhile, Ellis died and his will said: "I do give and bequeath unto the child that Catherine Westerveldt (his



year use as an immigrant station. Hospital is at left. Closed in 1954, the island's future is still being debated.

BROWN BROTHERS

daughter) is now pregnant with should it be a son, Oyster Island, commonly known by the name of Ellis's Island, with all the buildings and improvements thereon." The child was a son, but he died in infancy and title passed to Samuel Ellis Ryerson, another Ellis grandson. On Dec. 23, 1806, he sold the island to John A. Berry for the sum of \$3,200, while the Army still occupied it. It wasn't until March of 1808 that the New York legislature finally got around to purchasing the island—by this time the price had risen to \$10,000. To justify his asking price, Berry pointed out that there were not only the oyster beds and the tavern, but that the shallow waters just off the island abounded in shad. Besides, he said, he had made improvements. In any event, he got his money and Ellis Island became public property.

During its career as a military installation, the fort, which was named Gibson in honor of a lieutenant colonel in the War of 1812, saw no hostile military action. During the 1830's, it was used again to hang pirates.

When the Army finally abandoned Fort Gibson in 1861, nobody objected to the suggestion that it be converted to a powder magazine.

After the Civil War the island fell into ruin. A Congressional researcher who viewed it in 1890 reported, "The island is entirely uninhabitable and a desert."

Congress, by then, was faced with the problem of what to do about the rising tide of immigration, on which there was no limit. Until 1890, the states had been responsible for checking the health of immigrants and overseeing their welfare. But in the ten years previously,



Immigrants on Ellis Island, awaiting entry into the U.S., gaze across New York Harbor at the Statue of Liberty, who lifts her lamp "beside the golden door."

CONTINUED The Story of Ellis Island

some 5¼ million immigrants had landed on our shores. On some days, more than 1,000 immigrants showed up at the abandoned fort at Castle Clinton operated by New York State as an immigrant station. The facilities simply couldn't handle such numbers.

Acts of Congress in 1890 and 1891 set up the first restrictions on immigration. Under those first laws, immigrants must be healthy and free from diseases such as glaucoma and insanity; they must be able to support themselves or have a relative or friend in the United States willing to assume responsibility for their welfare; they must not be criminals, anarchists or of loose morals, and they must not be Chinese. To enforce such regulations it was necessary to screen new arrivals. First- and second-class passengers on the steamships which arrived in the harbor practically every day presented no problem. Their numbers were so small that they could be ex-

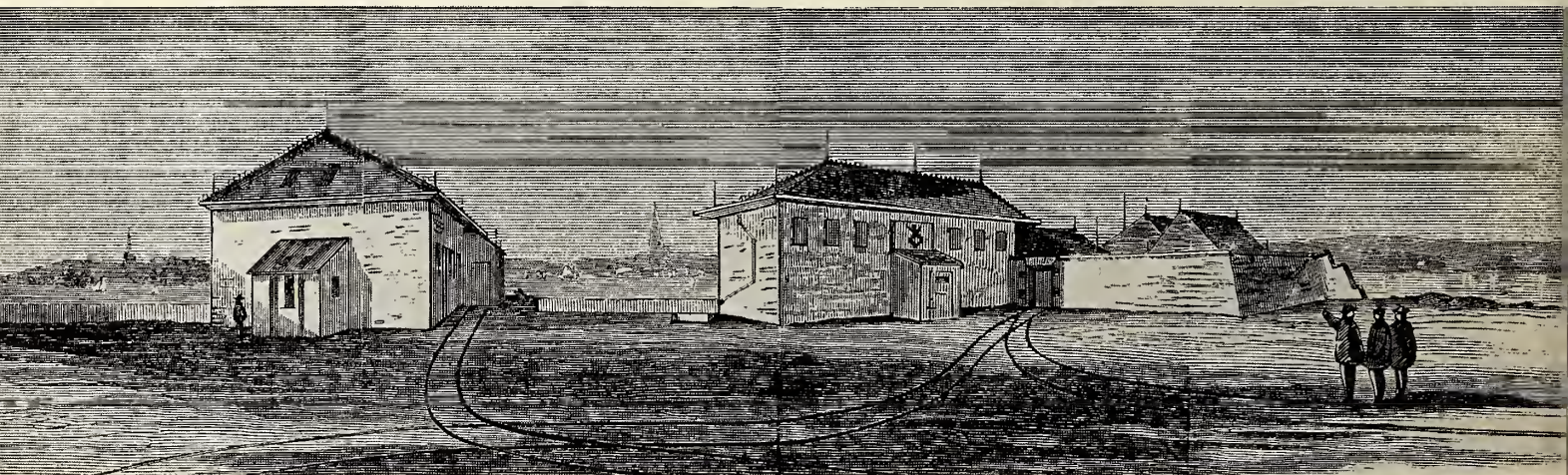
cluded as "uninhabitable" Ellis Island and convert it into a processing station for steerage passengers. An island, Congress felt, would also confine the spread of any contagious disease brought in from abroad and limit the chance entry of such undesirables as the mentally ill and criminals. At the same time, the new arrivals would not be so easily exposed to unethical labor contractors and crooks who might try to separate them from whatever cash they brought with them.

To double the land area, the government invited ships to dump their ballast of rocks alongside Ellis to create a flat regular-shaped island with a ferry slip. In the flat area, the Immigration Service built a two-story structure of Georgia pine. The bottom floor of the 600-foot-long building was to be used for forwarding baggage and passengers, while the second story was for offices and examination. Because immigration officials expected to process every arrival the

other undesirables, though well aware that they couldn't enter the United States. To put a stop to this exploitation, the Immigration Service made the steamship companies responsible for all immigrants until they were admitted to the United States. The companies balked, but a court ruling in 1894 upheld the government. Thereafter, the shippers paid the bills for the immigrants' food and lodging; paid the return transportation home of all who were refused entry, even took care of their medical and dental bills.

Col. John B. Weber of Buffalo, N.Y., was appointed the first Commissioner of Immigration for the Port of New York in 1891, and almost immediately found himself in the eye of a political hurricane. While the railroads, the coal companies and other large employers were enthusiastic over the arrival of the immigrants, organized labor, much of the rural population and some influential newspapers were anything but happy. Immigration during the 1890's and into

BETTMANN ARCHIVE



Navy powder magazines on Ellis (around 1861). From 1794 to 1865, the island was part of the defense chain protecting New York.

amined by an immigration inspector on the ship before it docked (the way it's done today with all ship passengers arriving from overseas).

Steerage passengers were not so easily processed. They were packed by the hundreds into the holds of liners and freighters. Cutthroat competition among the steamship companies had reduced the cost of passage from Bremen to New York to a mere \$10 during the 1880's, though the immigrant had to supply his own food en route. To drum up trade, some shippers sent agents throughout Italy, Poland, Germany and other countries, promising good jobs and gold in the streets in New York. The agents were paid on the basis of the number of steamship tickets they sold—so at first they sold tickets to many who were plainly ineligible for admission under the new laws.

To tackle the problem, Congress appropriated \$75,000 to buy the "entirely

same day, they saw no need for dormitories or restaurants. The building opened its doors in 1892, although work on the station took another five years.

When incoming ocean liners tied up at Manhattan or Hoboken, smaller craft pulled alongside. As the first- and second-class passengers walked down the gangplank, steerage passengers were herded out of their quarters and down gangways to the waiting ships. They were ferried directly to Ellis before they could set foot on the mainland.

Almost immediately there was a problem. Immigrants arrived who weren't qualified for entry under the new regulations. Others arrived ill from their crowded voyage. Children and the elderly showed up who had nobody to look after them in the New World. Most who were rejected had no money left for a return trip. The Immigration Service accused shippers of selling tickets to criminals, mental defectives and

the 1920's was about as popular with some segments of society as welfare is today—and to them Ellis was the symbol of everything that was evil about the system.

Critics weren't content with the charge that Ellis was some kind of pork barrel for Tammany Hall. They also charged that any immigration law or regulation would be waived by the authorities if enough political pressure were applied. During 1893 and 1894, for example, the Jewish Colonization Society of London bought passage for hundreds of Jews fleeing purges in Russia. Immigration regulations made it necessary for immigrants either to pay their own passage or to have a relative or friend in the United States pay it. The arriving Jews faced the choice of perjury or expulsion. Opponents of free immigration charged that Jewish societies in the United States applied political pressure to make the inspectors look the other way. In another



An immigrant takes an intelligence test, part of screening process for all arrivals. Besides physical and mental okay, other standards governing entry had to be met.

incident, when an Italian mother was separated from her husband and children because she had glaucoma, the case became a *cause célèbre* in Italian communities throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Some thought the immigrants led the life of Riley on Ellis. A report by the superintendent at the end of 1892 cited "the all too prevalent impression of arriving aliens that in this country the poor live in luxury and the indolent receive enormous wages." The superintendent went on to say that the deluxe treatment of immigrants at Ellis probably contributed to this attitude. A few years later, a visiting Congressman observed immigrants lunching on kosher beef. "They are eating better and receiving better care than my constituents who are paying for their support," he complained angrily. The superintendent explained that diet presented a real problem. "It is no simple matter to take into account the dietary habits and prejudices of perhaps 20 different races or nationalities and change the menu every day," he said. Kosher beef, it seemed, was some-

BROWN BROTHERS



Having qualified for entry, newcomers await relatives or friends in lower Manhattan after ferry trip from Ellis.

CONTINUED The Story of Ellis Island

thing just about every immigrant would consent to eat. Besides, he told the Congressman, it was the steamship companies, not the taxpayers, who were paying. "Yes," the Congressman retorted, "but it makes them fit for nothing when they arrive on the mainland."

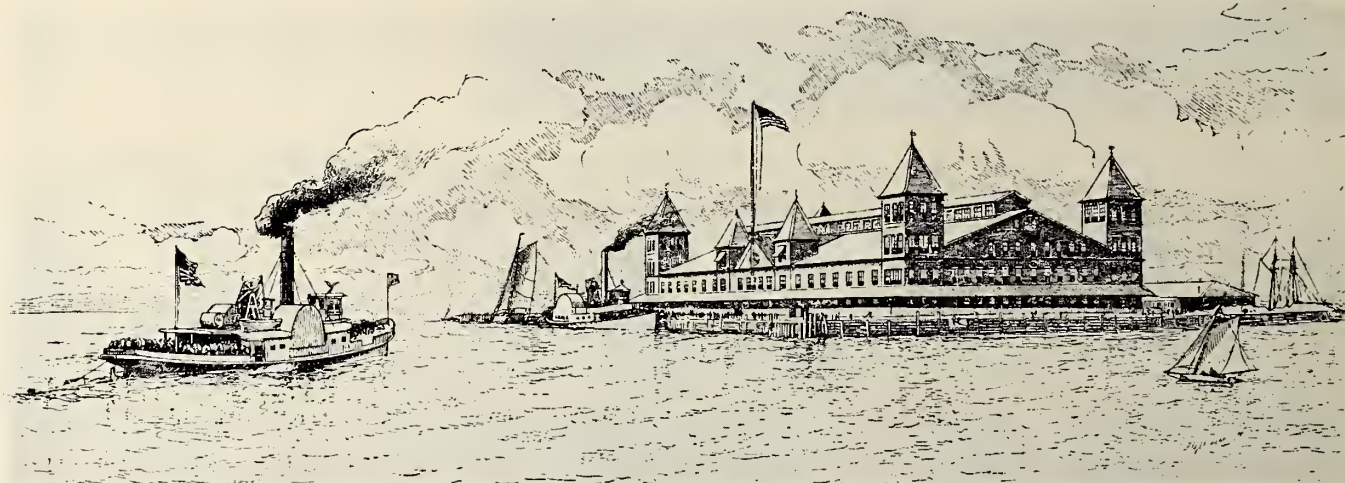
Apparently kosher beef wasn't on the menu every day. During the late 1890's, immigrants began to complain of conditions on Ellis. The kitchens had been turned over to an independent contractor, who received so much per head for each meal he served. The difference between the allotment and his cost represented his profit. According to Commissioner Edward Corsi, who took over the administration of Ellis in the 1930's,

this lost luggage could be believed," wrote Commissioner Corsi, "on that tragic night a boat-load of millionaire immigrants were being lodged on Ellis Island." Bundles which normally held cloth coats, a bedspread or mattress, and pots and pans, that night held fur coats, jewels and other valuables. Unable to dispute the claim, the government paid up.

The government promptly hired the architectural team of Barling & Tilton to design a new building. Work began on the 165-foot by 385-foot French Renaissance building, and by December 15, 1900, at a cost of \$1.5 million, it was ready for use. It's this red brick structure which tourists see today. "They really

amination. An alien filed down one of two lines. Each line made a right angle turn halfway down its length. The first medical officer, who stood at the turn, observed each person directly from the front. When the alien turned, the examiner had a side view. As he continued walking, the examiner had a rear view which might reveal pronounced spinal deformity. At the end of the line stood a second medical officer, who inspected eyes. The object of this somewhat rudimentary check was to sift out those with obvious physical or mental defects. If either doctor was suspicious, he made a chalk mark on the immigrant's shoulder or coat lapel. Aliens marked in this way, perhaps 15% to 20%, received a more thorough examination in the medical examining rooms.

CULVER PICTURES



Ship ferrying immigrants from arrival boats to Ellis awaits docking space. Such waits were common during immigration peak.

lunch for weeks at a time was stewed prunes served on slices of bread.

However, the greatest problem at Ellis was that of overcrowding. Dormitory space for immigrants (approximately one out of every five had to spend at least one night on the island) was cramped. Hospital space for immigrants with communicable diseases, or for internment of undesirables, was inadequate. All this was evident on June 13, 1897, when the station was pronounced completed.

Then, shortly after midnight on June 15, guard Harry Steiner thought he smelled smoke. Glancing at the roof of the main building, he saw sparks rising above it. Steiner alerted others, who evacuated the 61 immigrants who were spending the night. Within minutes, flames consumed the varnished pine structure. Altogether, the fire cost the government \$750,000 in damages, but not a single life was lost.

The buildings weren't the only loss the government suffered that night. Gone were all the immigration records since 1891. In addition, the 61 immigrants threatened to sue for the loss of their luggage. "If reports of the contents of

built it to last," says W.P. Crawford, the National Park Service agent who keeps an eye on it now. Despite the ravages of time, not only Barling & Tilton's main building, but the 34 subsidiary buildings which have sprung up around it remain structurally sound.

During the period of new construction, the Immigration Service took over the Barge Office on the Battery which had been used briefly during the construction of the pine building.

The new three-story building had a baggage forwarding area on the ground floor, with ticket offices for railroads, money changers' offices, an arrivals section, communal lavatories and medical examination rooms. On the second floor was the grand hall, where immigrants assembled for examination. A balcony around the hall provided office space, and wings added on to the building provided dormitory space for men and women, a library, nursery and other facilities.

Now, instead of marching off the ferry into a hall, the immigrants walked under a bright canopy to the main entrance. After being tagged with manifest numbers, they lined up for the medical ex-

The immigration inspection followed the medical inspection. On the average, each immigrant spent two minutes answering about 38 questions. The usual questions went into name, age, sex, occupation and marital status. In addition, there were trick questions. Many an immigrant who responded with a proud "Yes" to the question "Do you have a job?" suddenly found himself excluded. An 1890 law forbade the importation of contract labor, and an inspector was always on hand to make sure that no laborers had been hired overseas by American employers. So rigidly was the law enforced (it's still on the books) that five artisans from Basle hired to reassemble a Swiss mansion on Fifth Avenue were denied entry.

A glance at the records of the Immigration Service shows what it was like for the incoming immigrant. Nicholas K., a 24-year-old Greek, was coming to join his brother in New Britain, Conn. After answering questions about his place of birth, age, sex, morals and politics, the labor inspector asked him, "Do you have a job?"

"Yes," replied Nicholas, "I help out brother in grocery."

"Does your brother own the grocery or does he merely work there?" the inspector asked.

"He own grocery. Maybe he make me partner."

Nicholas was admitted.

Maria S., a 64-year-old native of Naples, was coming to live with her daughter in Philadelphia, following the death of her husband in Italy. "Are you a virgin?" the inspector asked.

Maria, apparently embarrassed, replied "No."

"Do you believe that a man should have more than one wife?"

"No, sir."

"What does your son-in-law do for a living?"

"He is a barber, sir."

"Does he own his own shop?"

"Yes, sir."

migrant, commended the inspectors generally for their understanding and compassion.

The welfare of alien women who traveled alone was a cause for special concern, though occasionally the inspectors were hoodwinked.

There was, for example, the case of Mary M., an Irish lass whose passage had been paid by her fiancé in Chicago. When Mary arrived, a young man presented himself to the inspector as her brother, living in Brooklyn. The inspector was dissatisfied with his identification and refused to release Mary, although she confirmed that this was indeed her brother. The fiancé, reached by telegram in Chicago, wired back that he couldn't come to New York to meet her, but was sending her train fare. Accordingly, the inspector released her. A week later, he

hostile family and friends in Ireland.

Rejection at Ellis, whether for physical or other reasons, didn't mean that a determined immigrant couldn't make it into the United States. Because first- and second-class passengers on the liners were presumed to be gentlemen, they usually received an even more cursory examination than that given at Ellis. Thus a Polish family arriving at Ellis in March 1903 faced the problem of a mother who was hunchbacked. The inspector admitted the father, his two young sons and daughter, but the mother was ordered sent back to Danzig. By June of 1905, the husband had saved enough to buy his wife a second-class ticket, and she joined the family in Buffalo, N.Y., without hindrance.

Life on Ellis had its interesting moments, for staff and immigrants alike. In

BROWN BROTHERS



An "Americanization" class in a New York public school salutes the flag. Twenty-nine nationalities are represented in the group.

"How much money does he have in the bank?"

"I do not know, sir."

"Well, will he support you if you become ill?"

"Oh, yes, sir."

Maria was admitted, as was Milos M., a youthful Bulgarian who passed this exchange with an inspector:

"Are you an anarchist?"

"What is that?"

"A man who believes in the overthrow of the government, in the assassination of kings, emperors or presidents."

"I hate Turkey. Want Bulgaria to be free."

"So did our Colonial Fathers want America to be free. You may come in."

In a sense, the immigration officers, in their quickie interviews, held tremendous power over the immigrants. For, though the immigrant could appeal an adverse decision, the hearing officers usually upheld the inspector. In Ellis' early days, inspectors were accused of making snap judgments. Complaints that some inspectors showed bias or lack of understanding persisted for years. But Commissioner Corsi, himself a one-time im-

received a second telegram from the fiancé. Mary hadn't arrived in Chicago. The Immigration Service promptly did some checking. Mary had used her train ticket as far as Buffalo, N.Y., where she had cashed in the remainder of it. The clerk recalled that she had been accompanied by a young man who fitted the description of her "brother."

Further investigation revealed that Mary had no brother. But, just before sailing from Cobh, she had met a young man traveling in second class on the same ship. They had fallen in love and agreed to marry once they landed in New York, thus letting the fiancé shoulder most of the expense.

Margaret D., another Irish girl, was not so fortunate. She had paid her own passage so that she could marry her fiancé, Bill, who worked somewhere in New York City. Bill didn't answer the first telegram, and Margaret told the officer that she had left her home in a small town in Ireland against her parents' wishes and against the express orders of her older brother, a priest. As the days dragged on, it became increasingly evident that her fiancé wasn't going to show up. Finally, she was sent back to her

September 1904, a boatload of gypsies arrived from eastern Europe. When doctors examined the children, they found that 48 of them had measles. The children were hustled into an isolation ward in the hospital. Somehow word spread among the adults that the doctors had taken the kids out and drowned them. From nowhere, pistols materialized, and gypsies began firing on immigration personnel. Apparently nobody was hurt. It wasn't until the doctors led a group of angry, doubting parents into the hospital to see their children that order was restored.

If the facilities at Ellis were inadequate in 1897, that was as nothing some years later when as many as 5,000 immigrants a day passed through, for a total of 1,285,349 in all during 1907. Sometimes, inspectors worked from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Even this wasn't enough to keep pace with arrivals. On occasion, ships rested at anchor in the harbor waiting to discharge their cargo of immigrants. Three out of four were admitted to the United States on the same day, but the problem of what to do with the remainder kept growing. As an admin-

(Continued on page 42)

Blood Shortage Is Felt Here

Blood Bank Deposits Dip Dangerously

Blood Bank Is Still Low

A nationwide blood supply shortage is being felt throughout North Florida, says Mrs. Dorothy Smith, director of the Jacksonville Blood Bank.

The county's blood bank, although given a healthy transfusion of 78 pints last Monday, is still dangerously low, and donors are asked to report to the bank between 3 and 6 p.m. every day.

in need, making advances almost as important as your savings account. Donors are asked to stop eating any solid food for 24 hours before reporting to the blood bank. Black soft drinks are permitted, but questions about them may be asked.

Dorothy Smith, director of the Jacksonville Blood Bank, Inc., for type O blood, the most common, Mrs. Smith added. Her facility serves city hospitals and gave blood last July.

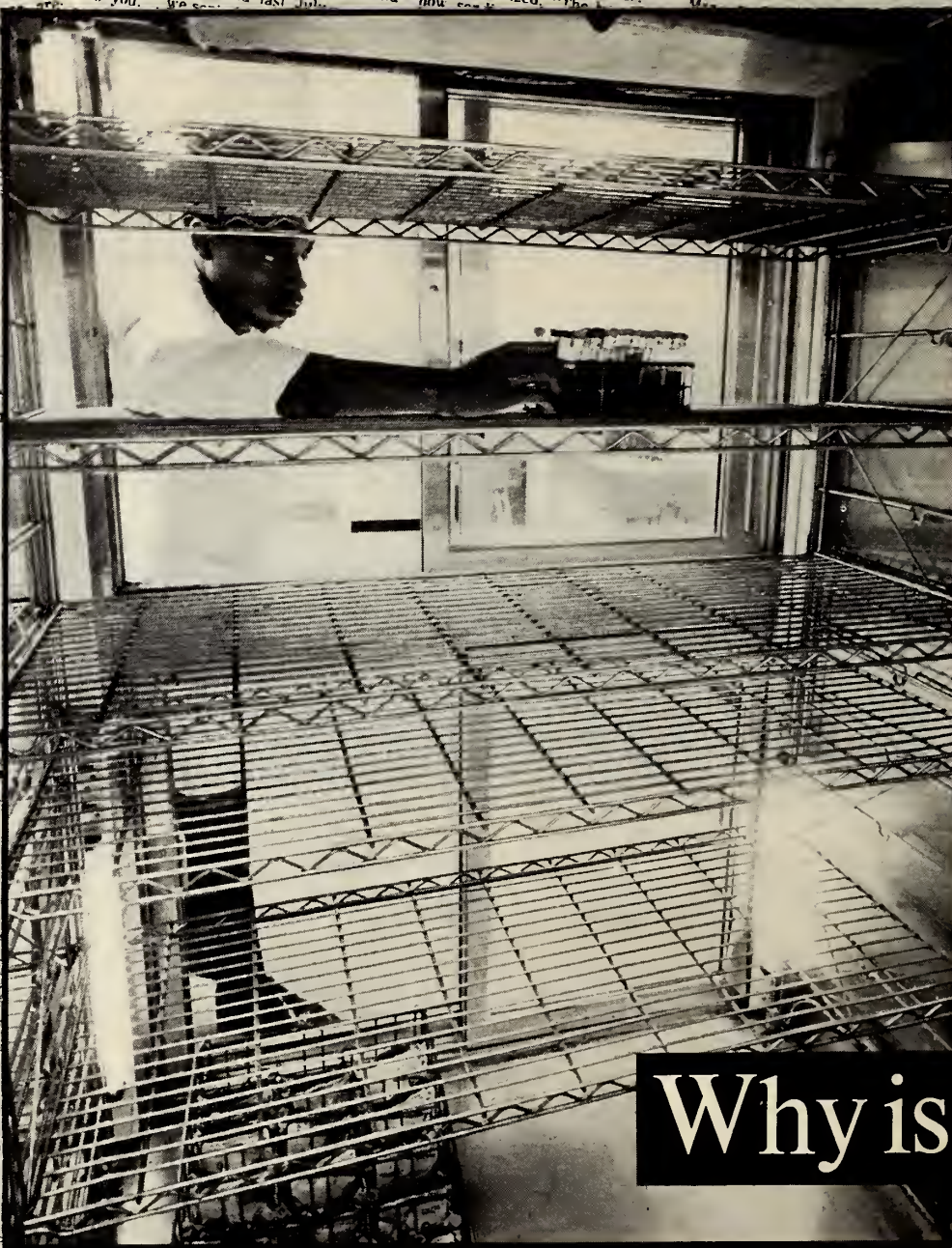
The situation is most serious at the 26 hospitals and related facilities in the Jersey City and Garden State Blood Bank in Newark, also supplies in many hospitals throughout the state.

Blood bank dry; donors sought

Not one pint of blood remained on refrigerator shelves of the Lorain County Blood Bank this morning.

Director Karl Heidberg issued an urgent appeal for donors.

ed on a narrow margin in efforts to keep up with the increasing demand for blood. Despite population increase...



Why is it

Bare shelves in Boston hospital this winter depict scarcity of blood on hand today.

Blood reserves at critically low level in Jersey

Operations May Be Delayed—Blood Bank Shortage

By Associated Press

The flu epidemic, the weather and the holiday season have conspired to create a shortage of blood in the nation's blood banks and all but emergency surgery may have to be postponed, a survey disclosed yesterday.

The epidemic of Hong Kong flu, accompanied by other respiratory ailments, is normally high at this time of year, but it is being compounded by a major factor in blood crisis by blood center and officials across the country.

bad winter weather is also a factor, and the mid-week Christmas holidays have further reduced the number of donors.

and New Year's Day holidays have kept many Americans vacationing for longer periods than usual, away from home or too preoccupied to donate blood to their local centers.

New York City's health commissioner, Edward O'Rourke, issued a call to all healthy New Yorkers between the ages of 21 and 61 to call a special telephone number set up by the Greater New York Blood Program and offer a pint of blood.

In Chicago Dr. Aaron Josephson, medical director of the Mid-America Red Cross Blood Center, said:

nation's national surgical emergency reserve blood and plasma is low. When hospitals are short of blood, they must turn to other states for help. The American Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D.C., is also short of blood.

Flu, Storms, Holidays Create Shortages At Blood Banks

not of an emergency or critical nature — to conserve blood for emergency operations and transfusions.

tion is critical in most parts of the country and predicted flu epidemic is being compounded by a major factor in blood crisis by blood center and officials across the country.

More Blood Still Needed

PEOPLE GIVING GENEROUSLY, BUT...

(By GEORGE NEARY)—Despite the "extraordinary" public response, the Red Cross blood center Friday urged donors "to keep it coming" to meet the emergency that has spread to local hospitals where all non-emergency operations had to be postponed.

A spokesman for the center said that although the appeal resulted in collection of 381 pints Thursday, the blood was shipped out to every unit by Friday afternoon.

donors Friday. I was necessary to remove all the office furniture from one room to make space for chairs for waiting donors.

In the donor room itself, space had to be made for eight more donors.

the spokesman said.

A puzzling shortage of blood exists in New York and other major U.S. cities, the New York Blood Center said yesterday.

ring all but the summer months, the New York Blood Center is receiving only 400 to 500 units, said.

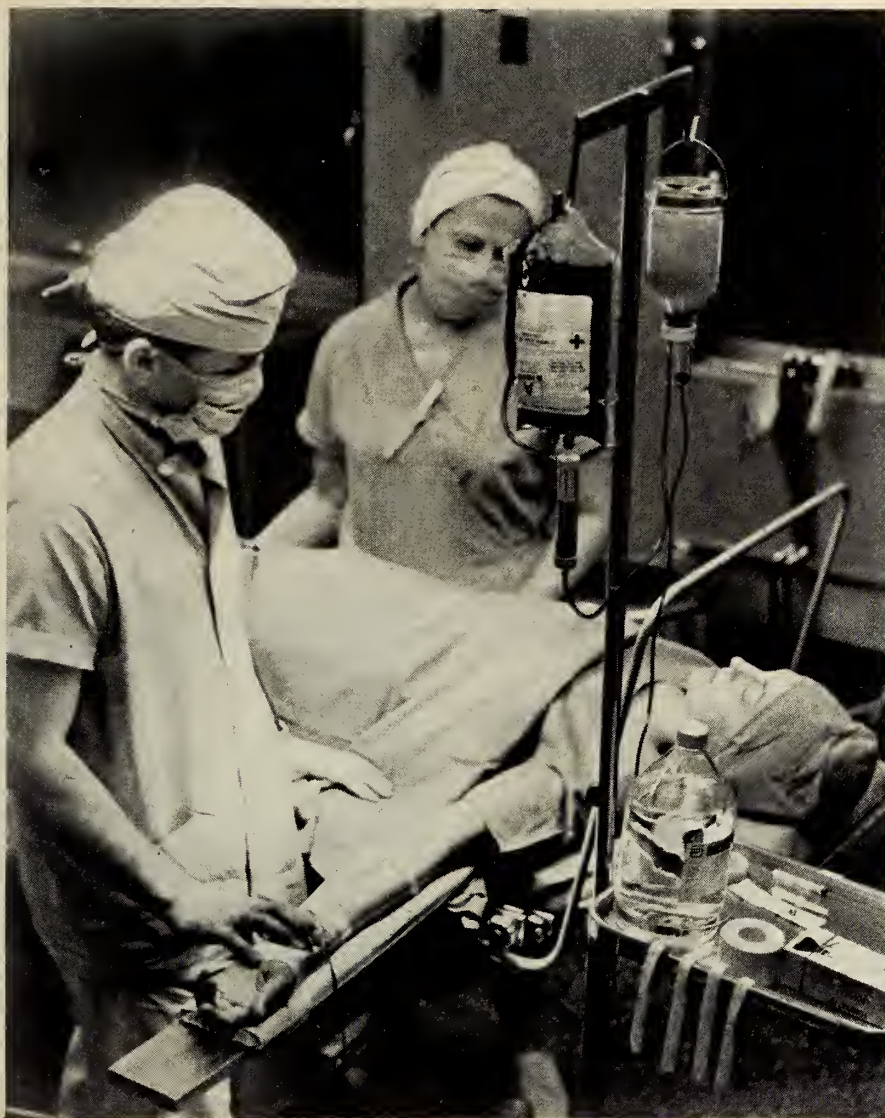
they need, the spokesman said. The Greater New York Blood Program, which is a consolidation of the Red Cross and New York Blood Center, plans to try to stimulate donations within about a year.

New Jersey Blood Supply Drops

By United Press International

Hospital officials around New Jersey say blood supplies are running critically low in many hospitals and blood banks in the state.

The situation is most serious at the 26 hospitals and related facilities in the Jersey City and Garden State Blood Bank in Newark, also supplies in many hospitals throughout the state.



Public response to recent emergency appeal for blood saved this N.Y. patient's life.

By TOM MAHONEY

A YOUNG WOMAN began to bleed during childbirth in Pender Memorial Hospital at Burgaw, N.C., a few months ago and needed a transfusion of blood of her type quickly. Her blood type was O Rh-negative. This is not rare but it is one of the less common types. Only one person in 15 possesses it and the hospital had no blood of this type on hand.

While nurses telephoned other hospitals in an effort to locate some, the patient's sister-in-law, Mrs. Marie Whaley, drove around the area in search of a donor with this type. Noticing military vehicles parked at a roadside restaurant, she stopped her car. Inside she found a detachment of Marines from Camp Lejeune eating lunch. She explained the emergency to them and asked their help. Each Marine looked immediately at his dog tags.

"That's my type," said 2nd Lt. James K. Carroll of Haddonfield, N.J.

The Marine rushed to the hospital and gave the patient, Mrs. Harold H. Cavanaugh of Watha, N.C., enough of his O Rh-negative blood for her to give birth safely to a daughter.

One point of this tale is that the military is giving more blood today than any other group. They are furnishing nearly all the blood for Vietnam, while the civilian sources have been in deep trouble. In fact, when Mrs. Cavanaugh found a military donor, she and her newborn child were lucky indeed.

Last winter there was a serious shortage of blood in most parts of the country, especially along the eastern seaboard. Even the common O and A Rh-positive blood types (found in one person in three) were in short supply. The nationwide Hong Kong flu epidemic and bitterly cold weather were keeping donors away from blood banks and collection centers. And this was taking place during the Christmas holiday season when the blood supply in the country is usually at its lowest level.

In January, the Wall Street Journal noted that according to many doctors, influenza was killing people who didn't have influenza. Its tightening of the blood supply was even preventing such things as urgent open-heart surgery in time to save some heart victims.

There is a serious blood shortage in America today. The demand for blood has been rising steadily and has now passed 6,500,000 pints a year. While the population is increasing about 1% a year, the number of donors remains essentially unchanged. But blood needs are

Tough to Get Blood?

A look at the soaring blood needs of Americans and what is being done to prevent recurrences of today's critical shortage of whole blood and blood fractions.

CONTINUED Why is it Tough to Get Blood?

increasing 10% a year at many hospitals. And the work load of blood clearing houses is rising at the rate of 15% a year. Clearing houses shift blood around the country and provide a system under which blood needed by a patient can be supplied and credited to him by a relative or friend hundreds of miles away.

Today, nearly 105 million Americans could give blood. The big problem is that only 2% to 3% of them, or about 3 million, do so.

During the past 20 years many persons have become "gallon donors," which means that they have given at least eight units of blood. Luther B. Maloy and Louis Anthony, WW2 veterans, have given more than 11 gallons each to the model community blood bank in Jacksonville, Fla., where Mrs. Dorothy Smith directs donor recruitment. The Red Cross has perhaps a dozen 11-gallon donors around the country and one 12-galloner, Gordon F. Pullen, Jr., designer at the Newport News, Va., Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. The Red Cross honors persons who have given ten gallons or more with lapel pins or key chain medallions in the shape of a drop of blood finished in gold.

Donating blood is a regular activity of many American Legion posts throughout the country. Symbols in the shape of a droplet of blood bearing the Legion insignia are given to members who have donated a generous amount of blood. A bronze symbol is given to donors of less than one gallon. A silver one with wreath and panel is presented to donors of one or more gallons. And a gold plated one with wreath and panel is awarded to members who have given five or more gallons.

The Red Cross last year extended the upper age limit for donors from 60 to 61. Leaders of the American Association of Blood Banks and the Red Cross are discussing the acceptance of donors in good health to the age of 66. California and New York now permit persons 18 to 21 to give (not sell) blood without parental consent. Young persons and women are especially needed as donors. It has been found that young persons give blood for idealistic reasons. Older persons, most often, donate their blood to insure the needs for themselves and members of their families through assurance plans. While certain sects, notably Jehovah's Witnesses and Christian Scientists, oppose giving or receiving blood on religious grounds, most persons avoid donating because of fear, apathy or inconvenience.

There is no reason for being fearful of giving blood. It is simple and easy. The entire procedure usually takes about 45 minutes. But the actual donation of

blood takes only five to ten minutes. The remainder of the time is taken up with the necessary preliminaries before the donation and the brief rest period afterward.

All sorts of experiments have been used to increase the number of blood donors. Don Dougherty, a WW2 Air Force cryptographer who is the director of the Spokane and Inland Empire Blood Bank has ceiling art exhibits to educate the public in the need for more blood. Blood banks in South Carolina and Australia have copied the idea. Florida has a "Blood Bank Week" every fall. At St. Cloud, Fla., persons have been wooed into giving blood with steaks and trading stamps. At Palm Beach, Fla., there have been successful middle-of-the-night blood drawings from workers at the RCA Information Systems plant. In other instances elsewhere, donors have been rewarded with pins, watches, turkey dinners, movie and football tickets, carnations, discounts in stores and free car washes. However, there is no record of anyone adopting the incentive plan used in the Soviet Union. There, where blood is also in short supply, donors are given a day off from work, have a day added to their vacations, and receive tea and a free meal.

It has been suggested that a U.S. postage stamp be designed and issued that would call attention to the drastic need for blood. Such stamps have been issued in a dozen countries, and one is credited with helping to triple the number of donors in France. Winton M. Blount, the new Postmaster General, who is a WW2 pilot and a regular donor in his home city of Montgomery, Ala., has expressed great interest in the idea and maybe something will come of it. The proposal also has the endorsement of the Red Cross, the American Medical Association, the Leukemia Society and other organizations interested in stimulating public interest in the need for giving blood.

"If only one or two additional persons out of 100 would give one pint of blood a year," says Dr. Frank Coleman, President of the American Association of Blood Banks, "the shortage problem would be relieved at least for the near future."

One way to accomplish this would be to start the custom of every eligible person celebrating his birthday by giving a pint of blood at his local blood bank or collection center. This would take only a few minutes, would supply additional blood throughout the year, and might save the life of a neighbor.

A sample listing of front-page headlines from some of the nation's newspapers last year illustrates the size and

scope of the problem then—and now.

"Blood Shortage Critical on Long Island," read a Suffolk Sun headline. "Blood Bank Low; Red Cross Asks Area Hospitals to Limit Surgery," reported the Washington Post. "Parkland Surgery Canceled for Lack of Blood," read a Dallas News headline. "Blood Supply Lowest in 20 Years," noted the Patriot Ledger in Quincy, Mass. Blood supply rooms of Boston hospitals were pictured with bare shelves and a Boston Globe headline read: "All Blood Used Up in Red Cross Bank."

Blood was scarce even in Rhode Island where the American Legion Department for five years has won the National Commander's Blood Donor Award for the highest percentage of posts participating statewide. At Rhode Island Hospital in Providence, Dr. Enold Dahlquist, a former captain in the Air Force Medical Corps, said the situation was "on the borderline of being critical," with stocks of blood only 10% to 20% of normal. "People are thinking

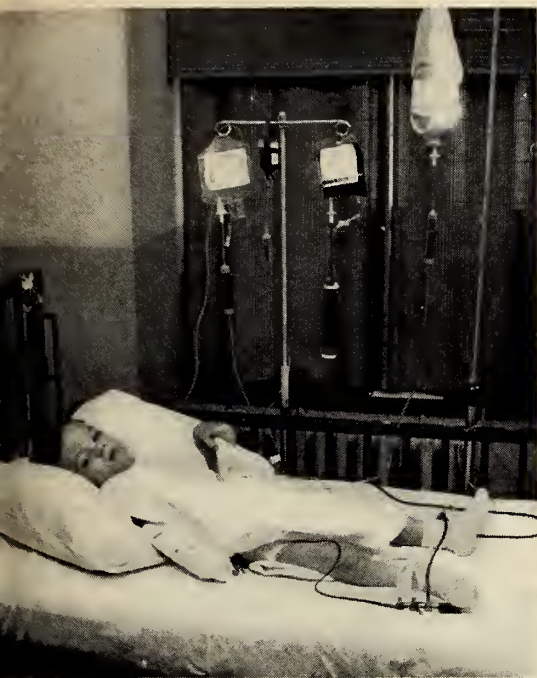


Mrs. Bernice Hemphill, director of Irwin Memorial Blood Bank in San Francisco. She pioneered the blood clearing-house plan.

of other things," he explained, "and simply don't donate enough blood over the holidays."

Alexander J. Castaldi, the WW2 field artilleryman who keeps track of donors from every Rhode Island post in the Legion blood program, turned to his files at Pasco R. Senerchia Post No. 74, in Natick. After a few hours of telephoning, he had scores of donors at hospitals in Providence, Woonsocket, Pawtucket and Westerly. Because of the Legion campaign and other drives, the blood shortage at these hospitals did not become critical. It is much easier to get enough blood on a crash basis in an emergency than as a steady thing.

Spurred by press, radio and television appeals, men and women throughout the country bared their arms and temporarily alleviated the mid-winter blood crisis. Blood was flown to Boston from Rochester, N.Y., and other cities. The American Association of Blood Banks and the American National Red Cross,



In Washington, D.C., antihemophilic blood factor aided recovery of this child, first "bleeder" to undergo open-heart surgery.



Total exchange of new blood for old given within five hours after being born in Los Angeles hospital saved this baby's life.

through their clearing houses, moved blood from banks with a surplus to those in short supply. So many donors finally appeared at the Massachusetts General Hospital that more beds were moved in and its big cafeteria was converted into an around-the-clock blood bank. Coast Guardsmen, nuns, students and doctors, among others, lined up to give blood. Labor unions held blood drives in Boston, St. Louis and other cities. Student policemen in Washington, D.C., responded to the call. Dodge dealers offered free transportation for donors in Chicago. Soon there was enough blood on hand to cope with the emergency.

At the time some blood banks met extraordinary as well as normal demands. When Mike Kasperak became America's first adult heart transplant patient at Palo Alto-Stanford Medical Center in California, he was found to have B Rh-positive blood. This is almost as scarce as the type given by the Marine to the North Carolina mother. Only one person

in 12 has it. Kasperak needed it fresh so that the platelets (which survive only a few hours) could control his internal bleeding. Platelets are tiny, plate-shaped cells made in the bone marrow which assist in the clotting of blood after an injury to a blood vessel.

The Stanford medical center had only a few units of B Rh-positive blood available. More came from the Peninsula Memorial Blood Bank at Burlingame which supplies the usual blood needs of the Palo Alto-Stanford Hospital. But the most dramatic contribution came from the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank of the San Francisco Medical Society, which routinely supplies blood for all open-heart surgery in the area.

This is a unique blood bank with a remarkable director. She is Mrs. Bernice Hemphill, the wife of a retired Navy captain. On Dec. 7, 1941, she was returning from church at Pearl Harbor when the bombs fell. That day she went to work in a blood bank there and has been in blood banking ever since. Mrs. Hemphill initiated and pioneered the blood clearing house idea, an adaptation of the Federal Reserve money system to blood.

Irwin Memorial supplies 96,000 pints of blood a year to 59 hospitals in eight northern California counties. It is the oldest and largest non-profit medically supported community blood bank in the country. In the words of the official magazine of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, whose agents give blood there, it is "the smoothest draw in town." It proved so in the case of Mike Kasperak.

On a few hours notice it located more than 100 volunteer donors with B Rh-positive blood. As the need continued, it set up a time schedule for groups of these volunteers to appear at 5, 5:30 and 6:30 a.m. so that their blood could be processed and rushed 30 miles south to Palo Alto in less than three hours, while the precious platelets were still potent. During the heroic 15-day attempt to save Kasperak's life, he received 289 pints of blood and platelet concentrates, all free of charge. If billed, these transfusions would have cost \$7,200. Servicemen at Hamilton Air Force Base and friends of the patient and his widow replaced the blood.

Another blood shortage developed in the summer of 1968. Donations were down because of vacations, while automobile accidents were up. Last August, more Americans were killed on highways than in any previous month. The National Safety Council announced a death toll of 5,280. Many of these were given huge amounts of blood in efforts to save them.

This shortage also drew page one newspaper coverage. "Blood Supplies Across Nation Perilously Low," read a

September headline. "New Jersey Blood Supply Drops Critically," reported the Jersey Journal. The blood problem continued for the remainder of last year and is still with us today.

Dr. Coleman has pointed out that "for many banks the shortages are losing their seasonal characteristics and becoming day-to-day problems." When the Hong Kong flu epidemic greatly aggravated the blood shortage, he and Gen. James F. Collins, head of the Red Cross, along with leaders of the American Hospital Association and the American Medical Association, made New Year's Day appeals to Americans across the country to give blood. Alexander Castaldi resumed his telephone drive in Rhode Island and again Americans responded to the call.

Why do we have these recurring blood shortages? The small percentage of donors in the population aggravates other problems. Blood is a perishable, living liquid, a "most peculiar fluid" as the Devil remarked to Faust in Goethe's famous drama. Where fresh blood—not plasma—is needed, nature's amazing gift generally is usable only within 21 days and cannot be stockpiled like most essentials.

An indirect cause of civilian shortages is the huge demand for blood in Vietnam. Blood that is sent to Vietnam is being drawn only from military personnel, their dependents and Defense Department civilian employees. However, this has cut the civilian supply because it has long enjoyed substantial donations from the military and from war veterans. Now, because of the incidence of malaria and the use of anti-malarial drugs, returnees from Vietnam are excluded as civilian donors for two years. Some areas of the country have been affected. For example, the American Red Cross blamed the recent shortage in Boston partly on loss of donations formerly collected at Westover Air Force Base and Fort Devens. New Jersey hospitals near McGuire Air Force Base and Fort Dix, which formerly had unlimited blood on hand, now require families of patients to replace any used.

There has been no shortage of blood in Vietnam. The military has taken care of itself far better than have the civilians. Ample "universal donor" type O blood in the forward battle areas and abundant blood of all types in the hospitals, plus air evacuation and fine medical care have made the death rate for the wounded the lowest in U.S. military history. One soldier who stepped on a mine received 224 pints of blood and survived. But it wasn't easy to assure such ample supplies in Vietnam.

While the Defense Department has standby contracts with the Red Cross and the American Association of Blood Banks, a military tri-service program de-

CONTINUED Why is it Tough to Get Blood?

signed to have a minimum effect on the civilian blood supply has collected, processed and transported all the whole blood to Vietnam. Director of the Military Blood Program Agency is Col. Richard B. Krakaur, Army Medical Corps, a native of New York and a graduate of Columbia University.

At first all blood required for Vietnam military use was collected from personnel on duty in the Far East. Beginning in 1966, the rising number of battle injuries increased the need for blood there and required shipments from the United States. Deliveries to Vietnam reached 100,000 units that year.

Today, blood is collected at 42 military installations around the country and flown by commercial airlines to the Armed Forces Whole Blood Processing Laboratory at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. From there it is transported in Air Force C-141 cargo jet planes by way of Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska to the Air Force Base in Yokota, Japan, and the U.S. Army's 406th Medical Laboratory Blood Bank at Camp Zama, 25 miles away.

Shipments reached a peak of 1,500 pints a day last June and have continued at the rate of more than 5,000 units a week. With some 300,000 pints a year arriving there from U.S. defense personnel, and somewhat less from Pacific bases, our 406th Medical Laboratory in Japan has the biggest blood bank in the world. It checks and re-ices the blood and flies it on to Vietnam. It usually arrives there less than five days after it was drawn in the United States and frequently is used at once with dramatic lifesaving results.

"I have seen men in battalion aid stations with multiple wounds from mortar fragments," recalls Donald Ely, a former Marine medic. "They were ghostly white. Their lips and fingertips were purple. We'd run blood into them as fast as we could. Sometimes we made four insertions, one in each arm and each leg. This way you could run in four to five pints in less than three minutes.

"In really bad cases we'd open the femoral vein and literally pour blood in—sometimes as much as 35 pints. There is nothing like seeing color return to the face of a man who would otherwise be dead."

Another reason for blood shortages stems from the needs of Medicare patients. They now use about 20% of the blood transfused. Under the rules of the federal program, they are supposed to replace or pay for the first three pints. But of the first million units used, only 253,000 pints were replaced—the hospitals had to find the rest. In some hos-

pitals, the Medicare deficit is much higher. Also contributing to the problem is a trend in private health insurance policies to provide a dollar coverage of blood needs, thus eliminating the incentive to replace blood. The insured tend to be satisfied that dollars have been put up for the blood they used.

"The fallacy of such insurance," notes a blood banker, "is that the health insurance companies do not guarantee that



Gold-plated symbol bearing Legion insignia awarded to members who give five or more gallons of blood.

blood will be available when needed. Dollars cannot be transfused."

The biggest reason for the squeeze on blood, however, is simply the tremendous increase in its use for surgery and therapy. While the 289 pints required in the first U.S. adult heart transplant case was a record of sorts, many other types of patients have used more blood. Advances in blood research have expanded the life expectancy of hemophiliacs (natural bleeders) from 16 to 60 years. Six of the persons in America afflicted with hemophilia have had more than 2,000

transfusions each of blood or blood fractions.

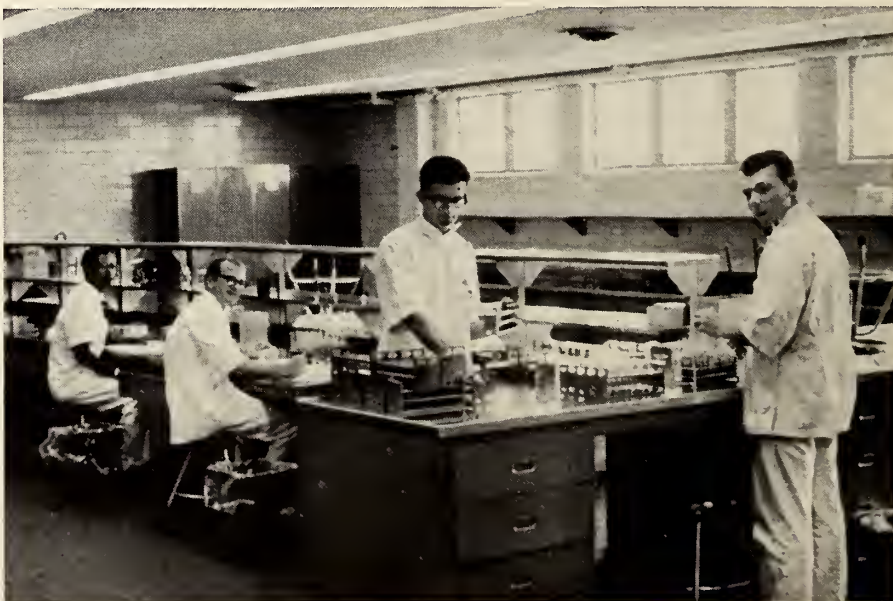
Hemophilia is a rare inherited disease which appears almost exclusively in males. Their blood clots so slowly that it is possible to bleed a great deal from fairly minor wounds. Hemophilia is called the royal disease because it afflicted several European royal families.

Large amounts of blood also are used by patients with Cooley's anemia, a chronic inherited ailment. These patients are kept alive by blood transfusions given twice a week. A Fort Worth, Tex., girl had such transfusions for 12 years.

Blood is the best and sometimes the only treatment for leukemia and other cancers, severe anemias, difficult childbirths, radiation sickness, open-heart surgery and many major operations such as on the lungs or the stomach. Some babies are transfused before they are born. In certain desperate cases involving adults as well as infants, a total exchange of new blood for old is the only hope for life. And a bleeding ulcer may require 15 to 30 pints a day.

While travel on the basis of miles is safer today than ever, accidents requiring the use of blood increase steadily. U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy owes his life to three blood transfusions received at the Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, Mass., where he was taken after being injured in a 1964 airplane crash. Four persons hurt in a recent automobile crash in New York City required 64 pints. An injured Detroit motorist needed 27 pints. Last year, 35 cars and trucks piled up in a mishap on the New Jersey Turnpike and 82 vehicles were involved in a nightmare accident on the Riverside Freeway in Los Angeles. In both these accidents, a large

(Continued on page 50)



Technicians test blood at Armed Forces Whole Blood Processing Laboratory at McGuire Air Force Base in N.J., central collection point for blood to be used in Vietnam.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

What Can Replace The Draft?

By NATIONAL COMMANDER

William C. Doyle



LAST JANUARY President Nixon asked the Defense Department to explore ways to get rid of the draft and replace it with a volunteer army. Some newspapers reacted strongly against the idea. The New York Daily News, which has never felt we could do away with the draft in these times, said that the President was fooling with dynamite. Even some editors who have knocked the draft hedged when Mr. Nixon started talking about getting rid of it. If his aim was to sober up the more bellicose draft critics by making them face up to its end, all well and good. We have too many people who want to chuck anything we don't like, and let somebody else worry about the consequences. The draft has never been a matter of what we like, but only of what we need.

Our present needs are pretty simply stated. Our safety depends on keeping larger military forces than we ever wanted. It is almost 20 years since we tried getting rid of the draft. In the five years after WW2 we cut back our forces drastically. By this act we purchased, in June of 1950, the Communist invasion of South Korea. We have not tried to go back to our early 1950 weakness, nor does Mr. Nixon propose that we do. Thus the proposal is to maintain *significantly large forces without the draft*.

The American Legion is not opposed to exploring the matter, but a large professional army is the only alternative. Years ago everyone was familiar with the objections to a large, professional, standing army. It would be good to re-examine them today for new generations who seem to have forgotten that there are worse things for a nation than civilian drafts to meet actual current defense needs.

Let's review a few of the objections that the Defense Department should report to the President.

1. Professional armies lack flexibility of numbers. Assume we successfully recruit three million men to make the military their careers. We then owe it to them to keep them in. We can't take men on for life then kick them out as soon as the coast is clear. But draftees *want* out as soon as there's no need for them. The draft is admirably adapted to the flexibility we need.

2. A large professional army is static. The majority of its members must become privates and corporals for life. You can't advance three million men up to sergeant or lieutenant. Even much of its officer corps becomes frozen in rank for decades—embittered, cynical, their eyes on retirement. *If* we could recruit such large, permanent forces some would be those who can find nothing better in life. The quality of such an army would thereby be lowered.

3. Large professional armies become political in every sense. America has never had an army that succeeded in running our affairs. Part of the officer corps in the Civil War tried it, but the soldier vote of draftees saved Lincoln from losing to General McClellan in 1864.

The future of a civilian flavor in our officer corps is already being endangered by those universities that are discouraging ROTC training on their campuses, and by all attempts to dilute or downgrade our civilian reserves and civilian National Guard outfits. We will find the officers we will need *somewhere*, and we are already on the road to a larger permanent officer corps than we had ever imagined. If, 20 years hence, educators complain that our officer corps is remote from civilian concepts, they will not have to look beyond their own doors for the cause. The murderers of the reserves may yet lead the mourners.

In the past we have escaped military juntas by having the foresight not to own a large standing army. We have looked to the civilian soldiers in war and peacetime crisis. Their record is unimpeachable, though we never gave them enough training in time. They never identified with the military and only wanted out when our need for them ended.

There was a time in the past when the phrase "military caste" brought shudders. In Germany, the military caste made war. Japan's big professional army led her to disaster. Thrice in 100 years France sent forth a professional army to defend her and found it unfit to fulfill its role. The history of Rome is not alone in its tales of career armies that switched their loyalty from Rome to their generals. A large standing army cannot help but become a military caste. When we create it, we make it so.

A small professional army is another thing. It has room for advancement to attract the fit. It is kept on its professional toes because it knows that in crisis it must mold the civilian soldiers into a fighting force. It is too small to be overly tempted by political notions.

There is danger today of discussing an end to the draft in terms of "Could we get enough men voluntarily?" Probably we could not. Experience of the past has clearly shown that we cannot maintain significantly large forces without selective service and the great influence it exerts. But it was not for want of possible recruits that The American Legion, in 1919, took its initial position against a large, permanent army for the United States. Nor would we espouse it today on the basis that we might find enough mercenaries.

But if the President is just trying to make the country look the question in the face, more power to him.

NEWSLETTER

A DIGEST OF EVENTS WHICH
ARE OF PERSONAL INTEREST TO YOU

APRIL 1969

ADDITIONAL BILLS OF INTEREST TO LEGIONNAIRES AND VETERANS INTRO- DUCED IN THE 91ST CONGRESS:

In the March issue, "Veterans Newsletter" listed some of the proposed bills introduced in the 1st Session of the 91st Congress having to do with veterans affairs . . . The following are additional bills which are of interest to Legionnaires and all veterans . . . If passed, the measures would: elevate the office of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to Cabinet rank . . . increase the annual income limitations for veterans or widows without dependents from \$2,000 to \$2,400, and for those with dependents from \$3,200 to \$3,600 while also increasing the rates of pension payable . . . increase the monthly rate of dependency and indemnity compensation payable to a widow by \$30 for each child born of the marriage . . . extend the law insuring preservation of all disability compensation that has been in effect for 20 or more years to include statutory awards such as the \$47 additional monthly compensation payable to veterans for loss of use of an extremity . . . retain May 30 as Memorial Day and November 11 as Veterans Day (unless this action is taken, existing law provides that Memorial Day will be celebrated on the last Monday in May and Veterans Day will be observed on the fourth Monday in October, commencing in 1971) . . . provide increases in the rates of disability compensation in order to equalize the monthly rates in relationship to percentages . . . provide payment of dependency and indemnity allowances to persons rated less than 50 percent . . . increase to \$60 the statutory rate payable for the anatomical loss of use of an extremity and to restore and increase to \$80 the statutory allowance for arrested tuberculosis.

VA BENEFITS AND THE INCOME TAX:

A last minute reminder to veterans toiling over their income tax returns . . . The Veterans Administration notes that VA benefits are generally tax exempt and need not be reported as income on federal or state income tax returns except for the interest earned on GI insurance policy dividends left on deposit with the VA . . . The interest must be reported

. . . Other major items of income that need not be reported include educational assistance allowances, pension and compensation payments, subsistence payments to vocational rehabilitation trainees and grants for special automobiles and specially built "wheelchair homes" for the severely disabled . . . Also tax exempt are all benefits to surviving dependents of deceased veterans and compensation allowances for dependents of disabled veterans.

INTEREST CEILING ON GI HOME LOANS INCREASED TO ATTRACT MORE DOLLARS:

In order to attract more funds into the home mortgage market and make it easier for veterans to obtain loans, the maximum interest rate on GI home loan guarantees has been raised from its 6-3/4% ceiling to 7-1/2% . . . This is an "interim, emergency measure" pending a thorough study in the near future by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

BILL TO PERMIT PRAYER IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS IS REINTRODUCED:

Sen. Everett McKinley Dirksen (Ill.) has introduced a resolution to permit prayer in public buildings. A similar bill he sponsored in the 90th Congress failed to achieve sufficient support . . . The bill is in keeping with Legion mandates.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES GETS A TITLE CHANGE:

The House of Representatives, by a vote of 305-79, has changed the name of the Committee on Un-American Activities to the Committee on Internal Security.

PROCEEDINGS OF HISTORIC ST. LOUIS LEGION CAUCUS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE:

In connection with the Legion's 50th Anniversary this year, the proceedings of the St. Louis Caucus--the first Legion caucus held in the United States--are being reprinted by Legion historian Hugh Haugherty . . . Copies are available to individuals, posts and departments at \$2.00 each . . . They will be ready for distribution at the May 1969 National Executive Committee meeting which will be held in St. Louis to commemorate the occasion . . . Order in advance from Hugh P. Haugherty, 5800 NW 32nd St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73112.

NEWS^{OF THE} AMERICAN LEGION

AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

APRIL, 1969

50th Anniversary Of St. Louis Caucus To Be Observed In May

Nat'l Executive Committee and other nat'l commissions and committees to hold annual spring meetings on site of first stateside Legion Caucus held in 1919.

To help commemorate the 50th Anniversary of its founding, The American Legion will hold its annual spring meetings May 6-9, 1969, in St. Louis, Mo., the scene half a century earlier of its first stateside caucus, May 8-10, 1919. It was here that many of the Legion's first important organizational steps were taken, the Preamble to its Constitution written, and its First National Convention was authorized.

The Legion's governing body between national conventions, the National Executive Committee, will meet here May 8-9 following meetings on May 6-7 of the Legion's regular commissions and committees. These meetings are normally held at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind.

More than 500 Legion leaders are expected to gather in St. Louis for the historic event. Among them, Founders of the Legion who will be honored guests

at the National Commander's Banquet to the National Executive Committee on Thursday, May 8. Housing and business sessions of the various committees will be at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel.

Among the events already scheduled during the St. Louis meeting will be a Governor's Prayer Breakfast to be held at Stouffer's Riverfront Inn at 9:00 a.m., Sat., May 10. Missouri Governor Warren E. Hearnes, himself a Legionnaire, will make a brief talk.

At 11:00 a.m., will be the rededication of a monument erected years ago in honor of the Legion. To this monument, located on 14th St., opposite the Soldiers Memorial, is being added a perpetual Flame of Freedom Torch and an additional stone column to house a time capsule containing items of Legion history representative of its first 50 years. The time capsule will be sunk during the rededication ceremony and is scheduled

National Membership Bulletin

As of Feb. 28, national Legion membership for 1969 was 2,229,345—an increase of 22,337 over the same date one year ago. The very strong enrollment figures brought the Legion within 393,767 of 1968's final total.

By Feb. 25, four departments had surpassed their 1969 assigned goals. They were: North Dakota (on Dec. 16), Hawaii (on Dec. 30), South Dakota on (Jan. 29) and the Philippines (on Feb. 25).

Based on the rate of membership as it was coming in, Nat'l Hq experts estimated that the national Legion enrollment could hit 2,670,000 by year's end. If so, that would mark the second time since 1963 that membership had passed the 2,600,000 barrier.

to be opened on the Legion's 100th Birthday.

On Friday evening a baseball game is scheduled between the St. Louis Cardinals and the newly-formed San Diego Padres at Busch Stadium. Here the Legion will pay homage to baseball's 100th Anniversary and in turn be recognized on its 50th. The Legion has had close ties with professional baseball during most of its history through its Legion Baseball Program.

\$100,000 Legion Scholarship Plan

A highlight of the National Executive Committee meeting during the upcoming St. Louis conference will be the selection of 50 recipients of \$2,000 college scholarships from among 10,000 applications under The American Legion Life Insurance Scholarship Program.

First approved in May 1967, the Scholarship Program is financed from a Trust Fund which has accumulated in conjunction with the Legion's Life Insurance Plan, itself now just over ten years old. The program allowed for 25 four-year \$2,000 scholarships and 25 two-year \$1,000 scholarships in 1968. But it was such a success that the National Executive Committee at its May 1968 meeting authorized for 1969 an increase to 50 \$2,000 scholarships payable over a four-year period in increments of \$500 annually. The funds may be used by the students to meet expenses



The graceful Gateway to the West Arch frames St. Louis, site of May NEC meetings.

Legion 50th Anniversary Postage Stamps Roll Off The Presses



National Adjutant William F. Hauck examines some of the first American Legion 50th Anniversary Commemorative 6¢ postage stamps as they roll off the press at the U.S. Bureau of Engraving. With him is John D. Fitzgerald, foreman of the plate printers. First day of issue of the new stamp was March 15 at ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

of tuition, fees, books, room and board.

Here's how it works. Each Legionnaire holding a certificate or policy of American Legion Life Insurance is entitled to nominate one applicant annually and receives an application blank each year that he is in the plan. Eligible scholarship applicants must be an insured member, a son, daughter, stepchild, adopted child, grandchild, or spouse of an insured Legionnaire or have the same relationship to a Legionnaire who was insured at the time of death.

To submit an application for possible receipt of a scholarship, the student must be at least a high school senior or equivalent or a student presently at or accepted by an accredited college or university. The student must also have at least a C high school average.

Of the 25 \$2,000 scholarship recipients last year, 23 entered school and \$500 checks were sent to the appropriate educational institutions. One student dropped out and the other two either entered the armed forces or did not enter school last year. Of the 25 \$1,000 scholarship recipients in the 1968 program, 17 entered school and the remaining eight intend to start next year.

Established in 1958, the Legion's Life Insurance Plan has paid over 5,000 claims a total of \$6,659,155 in death benefits and is known in the industry as a fast payer of claims. This is of vital importance to beneficiaries who may be temporarily short of ready cash for one

reason or another and who may be unable to free other funds for use.

Legionnaires in good standing are eligible to apply for either a full or half unit of coverage. Cost of a full unit of this type of insurance is \$24 per year and \$12 per year for a half unit. The amount of insurance benefits paid is determined by the age of the insured at the time of death. The highest amount that may be paid is \$10,000. In addition, there will be a 15% across-the-board increase in benefits for 1969 as there has been for each year since 1966.

For information on both the Life Insurance Plan and the Scholarship Program, write to: Mr. Paul Weber, Director, The American Legion Life Insurance Plan, 111 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Ill. 60604.

National Convention News

The American Legion will hold its 51st Annual National Convention in Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 22-28, 1969.

National Headquarters Hotel will be the ultra-modern Regency Hyatt House, reported to be the newest luxury hotel in the country. It boasts a 21-story lobby and glass enclosed elevators which ascend and descend on a central column. The lobby has a 70-foot fountain and a French-style cocktail lounge the roof of which is a parasol suspended by a single cable strung from the roof.

The Atlanta Convention Auditorium

will house the actual business sessions of the convention and activities will commence there on Aug. 26.

The Marriott Motor Hotel has been named as the National Headquarters Hotel for The American Legion Auxiliary.

Both hotels are within easy walking distance of the Convention Auditorium.

Watch for continuing news of the National Convention in upcoming issues.

Legionnaires In Government

President Richard M. Nixon and Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, both members of The American Legion, lead a large contingent of Legionnaires serving in the federal and state governments.

The President is a member of Post 51, Whittier, Calif., as a result of his WW2 Navy Service and Vice President Agnew is a member of Parkville Post 183, Parkville, Md. Mr. Agnew served in both WW2 and the Korean War and is a holder of the Bronze Star. The Vice President also worked as a volunteer with Maryland Boys State for many years.

In addition, about 50% of the members of the President's Cabinet who are eligible are members.

In the Senate, 65 out of 100 Senators are Legionnaires.

In the House of Representatives, 268 out of 435 Members are Legionnaires.

Of the 50 Governors, 30 are Legionnaires.

This Is My Country

About a year ago, the members of Massapequa Post 1066 (Long Island), N.Y., became concerned about what they thought was a national problem—the growing and almost overwhelming deluge of anti-American songs and attitudes. This, to them, signified the breakdown of respect for the nation and for the laws and orderly processes under which the U.S. is run.

They decided to do something about it—to fight fire with fire, so to speak. And thus was born—against almost impossible odds—a unique post Americanism project.

Why not, they reasoned, produce a record album of songs that expresses the spirit of Americanism? The motion passed unanimously. But *that* brought up a problem. Since this had to be a non-profit project, what to do with the money earned from the sale of the album?

Post 1066 solved that problem too. They voted the proceeds should go to: (1) police appreciation programs throughout the country (2) national U.S.O. programs, and (3) the Child Welfare Program of Post 1066.

Following those basic decisions everything was upbeat from then on. Somehow

they managed to arrange a combination of popular singers Robert Goulet and Anita Bryant, symphony director Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra, the West Point Glee Club and the Massapequa Drum & Bugle Corps. These artists perform 25 compositions such as the title song, "This Is My Country," "The Star Spangled Banner," "God Bless America," a medley of armed forces songs, a medley of WW1 songs, a medley of WW2 songs plus a reading of "Democracy" by post member Robert Atchison. And CBS's Special Products Division pressed the record for them.

Though it would be a musical bargain at any time, Post 1066's dramatic expression of Americanism is especially fitting in this, the 50th Anniversary year of The American Legion.

Individual Legionnaires and posts can order this patriotic album for \$3.00 check or money order from: "This Is My Country," American Legion Post 1066, CBS Special Products, P.O. Box 6719, Clinton, Ind., 47842. Allow up to three weeks for delivery.

If you want one, order promptly. Only 25,000 albums were made on the first pressing.

Gift To The Nation Fund

As the total of contributions for the Legion's Gift To The Nation Fund neared the \$100,000 mark in February, a poignant contribution worthy of note

turned up among the many thousands of donations made from around the nation.

The seventh and eighth grade social studies pupils of Nathan Hale School in Toledo, Ohio, decided they too wanted to contribute to the Legion's project to light the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery as a Gift to the Nation on the Legion's 50th Anniversary.

They collected \$70.75, and were in the process of putting together a patriotic program to present the sum to Walter Hart, a representative of Toledo Post 335, when one of their teachers, Miss Jimmie Lee Dixon, suddenly died. The children made the presentation in her name.

Everywhere—it's the 50th!



Post 15, Ore.: medallion for the mayor

Post 15, Medford, Ore., gave an anniversary medallion (see photo) to Mayor James Dunlevy, who had issued a proclamation in behalf of the Legion's 50 years. Post 15 Cmdr Richard Orr

The American Legion's Big Posts

Here are the 27 posts of The American Legion having 2,000 or more members as of December 31, 1968.

Post	City	Department	Membership
1. Lincoln Post No. 3	Lincoln	Nebraska	6037
2. Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post No. 1	Denver	Colorado	5841
3. Wayne E. Marchand Post No. 28	Koza, Okinawa	Hawaii	5405
4. Minneapolis-Richfield Post No. 435	Minneapolis	Minnesota	5321
5. Omaha Post No. 1	Omaha	Nebraska	4666
6. Alonzo Cudworth Post No. 23	Milwaukee	Wisconsin	4126
7. Lowe-McFarlane Post No. 14	Shreveport	Louisiana	3804
8. East Liberty Post No. 5	Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania	3709
9. Adam Plewacki Post No. 799	Buffalo	New York	3393
10. Hanford Post No. 5	Cedar Rapids	Iowa	3370
11. Gilbert C. Grafton Post No. 2	Fargo	North Dakota	2984
12. Westphal Post No. 251	Minneapolis	Minnesota	2880
13. Nicholson Post No. 38	Baton Rouge	Louisiana	2838
14. Harvey W. Seeds Post No. 29	Miami	Florida	2825
15. Oklahoma City Post No. 35	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	2720
16. Memphis Post No. 1	Memphis	Tennessee	2684
17. Braxton-Perkins Post No. 25	Newport News	Virginia	2623
18. Sioux Falls Post No. 15	Sioux Falls	South Dakota	2614
19. Nashville Post No. 5	Nashville	Tennessee	2486
20. Parkville Post No. 183	Parkville	Maryland	2442
21. Los Angeles Police Post No. 381	Los Angeles	California	2261
22. Carson-Wilson Post No. 1	Tulsa	Oklahoma	2243
23. Luke-Greenway Post No. 1	Phoenix	Arizona	2211
24. Commonwealth Edison Post No. 118	Chicago	Illinois	2172
25. Summers-Whitehead Post No. 14	Chattanooga	Tennessee	2117
26. Capitol Post No. 1	Topeka	Kansas	2106
27. Hammond Post No. 3	Kingsport	Tennessee	2088

American Legion Membership

Here is the departmental breakdown of Legion enrollments for the year 1968.

Alabama	29,592
Alaska	3,180
Arizona	16,139
Arkansas	27,968
California	124,292
Canada	770
Colorado	20,987
Connecticut	30,898
Delaware	4,086
District of Columbia	8,866
Florida	50,551
France	2,561
Georgia	45,751
Hawaii	7,220
Idaho	8,447
Illinois	191,255
Indiana	114,331
Iowa	94,210
Italy	3,794
Kansas	61,254
Kentucky	28,737
Louisiana	46,123
Maine	20,624
Maryland	41,181
Massachusetts	80,806
Mexico	1,358
Michigan	71,653
Minnesota	104,261
Mississippi	26,115
Missouri	59,809
Montana	12,746
Nebraska	54,966
Nevada	2,944
New Hampshire	19,191
New Jersey	75,077
New Mexico	9,416
New York	212,702
North Carolina	41,216
North Dakota	29,450
Ohio	117,607
Oklahoma	47,510
Oregon	22,109
Panama	1,023
Pennsylvania	252,355
Philippines	5,335
Puerto Rico	12,693
Rhode Island	11,612
South Carolina	22,138
South Dakota	29,424
Tennessee	50,150
Texas	70,421
Utah	7,100
Vermont	11,906
Virginia	31,632
Washington	36,899
West Virginia	25,190
Wisconsin	76,094
Wyoming	7,387
Total	2,623,112

(left), a Viet vet, made the presentation. Others are: G. Brittsan, Service Officer; Mayor Dunlevy, a Post 15 member; A. Orr, Building Committee chmn; and W. Kearns, Adjutant.



Post 442, N.Y.: Miss Golden Post 442

Post 442, Horseheads, N.Y., invited the four living charter members to its initial observance. Framed photostatic copies of the post's original charter were presented to each of the four. Citations of appreciation were issued to the Village Board of Trustees, the Mayor, the Village Manager, and the Village Attorney (all members of Post 442) in recognition of the great cooperation through the years between the Legion and the community. Personnel of local TV and radio stations and two newspapers were cited. Miss Taryn Price (in photo being crowned by Post Cmdr Robert Barner) was named Miss Golden Post 442 and will reign as the 50th Anniversary Queen for 1968-69. The post will make a Gift to the Community: a Remembrance Retreat to be built at a cemetery. A Flame of Freedom is planned.

MARIE E. BELLIS, HOPEWELL, N.J.



Post 76, N.J.: a flag to a hospital

Post 76, Princeton, N.J., donated an \$800, 40-foot aluminum flag mast and flag to Princeton Hospital. In the photo, Post Cmdr William Haupt presents a new flag to George Conover, president of the hospital Board of Trustees (right). Administrator John Kauffman looks on. Plaque at base of mast reads: "Presented by Princeton Post 76, American Legion, to Princeton Hospital and dedicated to the principles of freedom and democracy."

Ormond Beach Post 267, Fla., will

commemorate with a dinner and will honor 16 living 50-year members.

Post 2, Milwaukee, Wis., plans church services, programs honoring post members, and a dinner-dance. Guest speakers will be: William Emanuel, Alternate Nat'l Executive Committeeman and Past Dep't Cmdr, and Richard Biernat, Dep't VC representing Dep't Cmdr Casey Jones.

A "Proud Legion City" is **Toledo, Ohio**, where, after several years of labor by Legionnaire Sam Schuster of **Post 546** with the help of Legionnaire Mayor William Ensign and the County Commissioners, the Civic Mall boasts four memorial plaques, honoring vets of the four major conflicts. The last plaque, honoring the 333 Toledo WWI vets who died in action, was dedicated on the eve of the 50th Anniversary of the WWI Armistice. Mayor Ensign, right in photo, assists Schuster in the unveiling ceremony.

GLENN HORTON PHOTO



Legionnaire labor pays off in Toledo.

106th Division Vets Will Return to St. Vith

The 25th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge will be marked by the 106th Infantry Division Assoc. with its 22nd annual reunion to be held in the Town of St. Vith, Belgium, where the 106th bore the first brunt of the German onslaught. Addressing one of the luncheons will be Gen. Baron von Manteuffel, the German Commander in the Battle.

In December 1944, two regiments of the 106th were moved into the lines in front of St. Vith fresh from the states, with no battle experience, to hold a "quiet sector." The full brunt of the initial German offensive in the Bulge fell upon them without warning. Both front line regiments were overwhelmed and surrendered before they were annihilated.

It was the worst reverse ever to strike an American division. The remaining regiment, posted nearer St. Vith, joined with fragments of other outfits in the heroic, jerry-rigged defense of St. Vith under tankman Gen. Bruce Clark. That defense upset the German time-table and allowed General Eisenhower time to or-

ganize a better defense and a later counterattack.

Some 95 "Golden Lions" of the 106th had signed up early this year for the reunion in Belgium. Convention chairman is Douglas S. Coffey, Town Hall, West Orange, N.J. 07052.

The New Breed: Viet Vets

The New Breed is the title of a new film, available from Nat'l Hq. The 28-minute, 16mm. color film features four young VietTime veterans who appeared as a panel before the participants in the 1968 Nat'l Membership Workshop. From prior group discussions, questions had been prepared to present to the panel. Two of the vets are Legionnaires; the other two are not.

While you may or may not agree with the panel's statements, you will find *The New Breed* an excellent method of starting a discussion on what your post must do to attract an appreciable number of new veterans. Service fee for the film is \$2.50. Make bookings well in advance of showing dates. Specify alternate titles and dates. To book the film, write to: The American Legion, Film Library, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Award Honors Late H. C. Parke

A citation recognizing the late Henry C. Parke's valued service to the Legion's Nat'l Merchant Marine Committee was presented to the widow of the former chairman of the Committee, who was a member of Robert L. Hague Merchant Marine Industries **Post 1242, New York, N.Y.**

The presentation was made to Mrs. Henry C. Parke on behalf of Nat'l Cmdr William Doyle by PPCmdr William Schwartz. The award stemmed from a resolution sponsored by Post 1242 and introduced by the Nat'l Maritime Committee at the last Nat'l Convention.

For Those in Vietnam

Post 27, Dover, N.J., presented a Citation of Meritorious Service to the Dover



Senior Citizens are helping, too.

Area Senior Citizens Club in recognition of the work it has done in sending packages to our men in Vietnam. In the photo, accepting the award from Post Cmdr Lee McClellan, are Mrs. Frances Dickinson, president, and Mrs. Helen Bidgood, chairman. To date the club has sent 14 packages, over 400 lbs.



Illinois posts give flagpole, plaque.

Four posts in the **LaGrange, Ill.**, district (plus an anonymous donor) presented a 40-foot flagpole and a plaque to the community to honor the young men of the area who had given their lives in Korea and Vietnam. The appeal for the action came from student council members of Lyons Township H.S. The presentation was made as part of dedication ceremonies at Chuck Bennet Field, the school's new athletic facility. In the photo (l. to rt.) are R. J. Bayer, Past Cmdr, **Post 1941**; William Seiler, Cmdr, **Post 1941**; Robert Wind, Past Cmdr, **Post 190**; Charles Guditis, Cmdr, **Post 453**; Waldo Simenson, Past Cmdr, **Post 41**; and Hubert Noble, Cmdr, **Post 190**.

Post and Unit 960, Levittown, Pa., together with the Knights of Columbus Council 4215, played host to 64 Viet vets from the Navy and Fort Dix Hospitals—wheel chairs, crutches, casts, and all. Orchestras, dancing girls, and 45 hostesses from the area, who danced with those vets who could manage it, made it all go. Local businessmen donated the food and 73 cakes went back to the hospitals for local consumption. A box lunch was handed each vet to take back on the bus. In the photo are



Post 960, Pa.: big caper for 64 vets

Hal Wagner, Chuck Provant, Auxiliary President Mrs. William Trabosh, John Campbell, Mrs. John Lennon, and Post Cmdr William Grover.

Post 44, Sunbury, Pa., sent a flag to Vietnam—it's flying over Hill 647. Part

of an anticipated exchange of flags, the colors went to a local man, Marine 1st Lieut. Edward M. Zerbe, at Da Nang (on his second tour of duty), who proposed the exchange several months ago. The flag he had requested had draped the coffin of a past post commander, G. P. Leighow. "We also flew the Pennsylvania State flag the first day the Leighow-Legion flag was raised and had a color detail of three Pennsylvanians for the ceremony," wrote Lieutenant Zerbe. "The commander, Lt. Col. Kauffman, then proclaimed 'Pennsylvania Day' on Hill 647. The camp location is over 2,000 feet above sea level and gives the men a most beautiful view of Da Nang, Happy Valley, Marble Mountain, and the South China Sea. On a clear day we can see as far south as Chu Lai."

Post 854, Valley Stream, N.Y., goes to the draft board at induction time and presents a gift to each young draftee. The post found that the parents and other visitors had no seating facilities at the draft board while awaiting transportation to the induction center. The post made a suggestion, gladly accepted by the board, to offer the use of the post home on induction occasions. **Post 854** provided coffee, pastries and rolls, plus a comfortable atmosphere. The Auxiliary ladies are on the job at 6 a.m.

Post 427, Kearny, N.J., has honored its Vietnam boys by offering a free phone call to one serviceman each month, calling home from Saigon.

BRIEFLY NOTED



Young America lends a hand with music.

The Monarchs of Mitchell, a musical group (see photo), gave a concert for the hospitalized vets in the **Salisbury, N.C.**, VA Hospital. The concert was arranged by D. E. Spencer, director of Student Affairs at Mitchell College, **Statesville**, and a member of **Post 65**. Said he: "The members of the band wanted to do something for our veterans who have served their country unselfishly. This was their way of showing their appreciation."

Winner of the Veterans' Grand Award for 1968 for outstanding service to veterans was the local Employment Office at Searcy, Ark. The award is sponsored

HERMAN WEST, SEARCY, ARK.



In Arkansas: champion service for vets

jointly by the **Arkansas** Dep'ts of The American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans. In the photo, l. to rt.: W. Cantrell, Claims Examiner; E. Peters, Claims Supvr.; K. Blackburn, mgr.; J. Ford, Counselor; Nancy Ladd, Steno; W. Yeager, local VER; J. Rollins, Placement Supvr.; and R. Crain, VER for Arkansas, US Dep't of Labor, Little Rock.



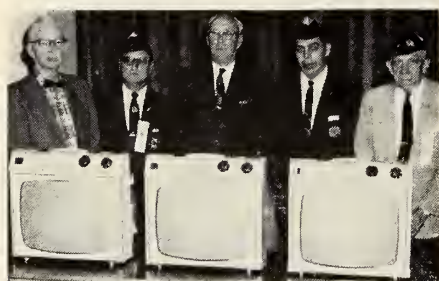
Ambassador Fulton Freeman gets a farewell gift of appreciation from **Post 2, Mexico City**, Cmdr David Goff. "For many years," says Goff, "the Ambassador (who is retiring from the Diplomatic Corps) has been always ready and willing to help the Legion. He will be greatly missed."

The Dep't of New Jersey sponsored a Safety Essay Contest entitled, "What Safety Means to Me." The winner, Mary Sharp, of Freehold, N.J., sponsored by **Freehold Post 54**, won a \$100 Savings Bond and The American Legion, Dep't



Thoughts on Safety win a trophy.

of N.J. Plaque. She was also awarded the Bergen Co. Legion Trophy. In the photo are Herbert Spitzner, Post 54 Cmdr (left), Miss Sharp, and Reese Gibson, Safety Chmn.



Illinois's 6th District has given hundreds of TV sets to Vietnam Sections of various VA Hospitals. J. McParland, VA Research Hospital Director (center), gets three more sets from Roy Powell, Emil Theador, Peter Nottoli, and Joseph Levin.

POSTS IN ACTION

The Senior Color Guard of **Post 985, Chicago, Ill.**, Nat'l American Legion Champions, were slated to spark the 50th Anniversary celebration with an appearance on the Ed Sullivan TV Show on Sunday, March 9, to the accompaniment of Meredith Willson's American Legion March.

Post 228, New Orleans, La., gave the Legion's Medal of Valor to three men who rescued a man from a window washing scaffold which gave way outside the 29th floor of the International Trade Mart. The rescued man's partner was killed in the accident. PPCmdr John M. Flynn gave the awards to R. O. Cramer, Col. E. B. McKinney, and L. A. Schwartz.

Post 884, Yonkers, N.Y., hosted 32 public and parochial high school juniors on an all-day bus trip to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa.



Post 46, Calif.: a \$500 hospital gift

Post 46, Culver City, Calif., donated to the Los Angeles Children's Orthopedic Hospital an ultra sonic nebulizer with humidifiers, used for many respiratory ailments, heart, and asthma cases and post operative patients. The cost was \$500. In the photo, from left: Zaida

Swift, Post Adjutant; Mary Rose, Hospital PR; Post Cmdr Mike Abarta, and Dr. J. C. Thresh, Director Inhalation Therapy. The hospital needs at least four more of these units.

Post 254, Sauk Rapids, Minn., constructed a war memorial at the entrance to three cemeteries. It was completed entirely by the post without outside assistance, and honors veterans of all wars. The Committee consisted of Dr. Roland Stromsbarg, Walter Kaprek, Francis Kedroneski, Lawrence Conrad, and Lawrence Mendel, under the leadership of Al G. Striet.

Post 134, Morton Grove, Ill., gave three wheel chairs to the Morton Grove Nurses Assoc., which maintains a "lending closet" of supplies it lends to anyone in need of them.

Post 314, Lehigh, Pa. has added interest to its programming by forming clubs within itself, as other posts have done. Five such clubs are now operating—four Last Man units (WW1, WW2, Korean War, and Vietnam War) and the Lehigh Area Marine Corps Assoc.

Post 80, Binghamton, N.Y., gave an electric bed, costing \$1,043, to Lourdes Hospital. It will be used by patients suffering from extensive burns and spinal cord injuries. The revolving bed allows



Post 80, N.Y.: Gift to a hospital

a patient to lie on his stomach or back without having to be turned. In the photo, l. to rt.: Sister DeChantal, Lourdes Administrator; Joseph Mollo.



A Day to Remember—learning and experience—courtesy of Post 88, Bonneville, Ore.

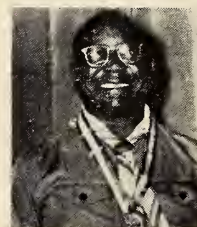
Post Cmdr: G. Rogers; PPC R. Bussom; and the model patient, Mrs. Eric Neff, the sister's secretary.



Membership message via milk cartons

Post 1, Omaha, Neb., is an early starter in the milk-cartons-for-membership campaign. Distributed once again by the Roberts Dairy Co., the Ex-Cello-made cartons carry the message: "Veterans of WW1, WW2, Korea and Vietnam: Join Your American Legion." The 190,000 cartons will go to western Iowa and the eastern two-thirds of Nebraska. In the photo are W. E. Russell, Post Cmdr H. J. Grove, W. Holben, Executive Officer, Roberts Dairy, J. Gates, and N. Cooper.

Plummer Latimer, commander of **Post 151, Pittsburgh, Calif.**, has been awarded



P. Latimer

the Silver Beaver by his local Boy Scout Council for outstanding service to Scouting. This is the highest award a Council can bestow. Cmdr Latimer has been Post Cmdr for eight years and a Scouter for over 16. A WW2 Bronze Star recipient, he is a postman, current president of the Pittsburg High School Parents Club, a Sunday School teacher and superintendent, and a Past Exalted Ruler. W. McCree Elks Lodge.

Post 88, Bonneville, Ore., originated the "Day to Remember" for Oregon posts, a day in April for taking a group of crippled and retarded children, their teachers and aides on an all-day educational or historical trip. Some of those participating in a recent "Day to Remember" are shown in the photo below.



K. Adams (L), 2nd VC, Post 32, Papillion, Neb., awards Certificates of Merit to Raymond Scott (C) as Best All-Around Legionnaire in Papillion, and Louis Hauschild, Sr., for outstanding work in promoting Legion memberships.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Legionnaire Congressman Ed Reinecke, of Tujunga, Calif., selected to replace Robert H. Finch as Lieutenant Governor of California. He is a WW2 Navy vet and represented his state's 24th District. Finch was named by President Nixon to be Sec'y of Housing and Urban Development.

John J. O'Connell, of Warwick, R.I., is the new Nat'l Executive Committeeman for the Dep't of Rhode Island, replacing the late John A. Ryer. The new alternate NEC man to replace O'Connell is **Louis R. J. Malo** of West Warwick.

C. D. DeLoach, of Alexandria, Va., chairman of the Nat'l Public Relations Commission, who celebrated his 25th anniversary with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Congressman W. C. Daniel, of Danville, Va., Past Nat'l Cmdr (1956-57), appointed to the House Armed Services Committee.

Austin E. Kerby, of Camp Springs, Md., the Legion's Nat'l Economics Director, reappointed for one year to the President's Committee of the Handicapped. The Committee's purpose is to foster a more enlightened attitude toward employment of the handicapped, who number one in every ten persons in the U.S.

John S. Mears, assistant director of the Nat'l Legislative Division, who resigned to accept the position of administrative assistant to Congressman Martin B. McKneally (N.Y.). **Charles E. Mattingly** continues as assistant director, taking over Mears's duties. **Terrell M. Wertz**, information specialist for the Nat'l Rehabilitation Div., was named assistant director, assuming Mattingly's duties.

Legionnaire Frederick C. Belen, retired as Deputy U.S. Postmaster General after

31 years of service to the Post Office Dep't, awarded the Army's Decoration for Distinguished Service, the highest honor the Army can bestow upon a civilian. Belen is credited with speeding mail delivery to overseas troops by eliminating much of the mail sorting process in Vietnam for forwarding mail to servicemen.

DEATHS

Leo Edward Jolin, of Paris, France, Post 1, Past Dep't Cmdr (1954-55).

Kenneth Cruse, 61, of New Bloomfield, Mo., Past Dep't Adjutant (1956-65) and Nat'l Sergeant-at-Arms in 1961-62.

George C. Monagan, 69, of Rochester, N.Y., a Nat'l Field Representative for the Legion in 1945-65.

Carroll H. Lockhart, in Phoenix, Ariz., a member of the South Dakota Legion who was that state's Dep't Cmdr in 1930-31, Alternate Nat'l Executive Committeeman in 1930-31, and Nat'l Executive Committeeman in 1944-49.

Harold F. DePue, 71, of Great Falls, Mont., Past Dep't Cmdr and Alternate Nat'l Executive Committeeman (1929-30).

Beldon E. "Kelly" Owens, 71, of Salem, Ore., Past Dep't Cmdr (1948-49) and Nat'l Executive Committeeman in 1951-53.

Gailey B. Underwood, 56, in Albuquerque, N.M., Past Dep't Cmdr of the Phil-

ippines Legion (1950-51) and a Nat'l Executive Committeeman in 1951-52.

Bernard C. (Barney) Capehart, 60, longtime publicist for the Legion in its Washington, D.C., office, found dead in the street on February 4, victim of an apparent heart attack. He joined the Legion's publicity staff in 1959 and was chief of the Press Section.

Andrew P. Martin, 82, of Tucson, Ariz., Past Dep't Cmdr (1919-20) and a member of the Nat'l Executive Committee in 1920-21.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The award of a life membership to a Legionnaire by his Post is a testimonial by those who know him best that he has served The American Legion well.

Below are listed some of the previously unpublished life membership Post awards that have been reported to the editors. They are arranged by States or Departments.

Claude McLean and **Henry H. Miller** and **Alvin Moore** and **Kenneth L. Muir** and **M. J. Murphy** (all 1967), Post 1, Phoenix, Ariz.

Jack W. Polderman (1965), Post 430, Guerneville, Calif.

Hugo Herrmann (1967), Post 457, Big Pine, Calif.

Joseph Q. Lopez and **Lawrence Ogle** (both 1968), Post 739, Indio, Calif.

Harry Barsky and **Herbert Bundock** and **Martin D. Callahan** and **Richard W. Callahan** and **August Franklin** (all 1968), Post 11, Bridgeport, Conn.

Gastonia E. Everhart and **William E. Fielder** and **Albert Grace** and **Joe King** and **George T. Lay** (all 1966), Post 506, Rome, Ga.

George Neverauskas and **Joseph Pakudaitis** and **Frank Pluskavich** and **Anton Radzukinas** and **Walter Rage** (all 1968), Post 271, Chicago, Ill.

Forrest Williams and **Robert K. Williams** and **E. Doyle Wood** and **Vilas Wood** (all 1967), Post 423, Mount Carmel, Ill.

Arthur J. Hessemer and **James A. Jost** (both 1968), Post 473, Chicago, Ill.

Roy Hendrix and **Howard Hollingsworth** and **William Jamison** and **Elmer Jared** and **Dane Jennings** (all 1968), Post 477, Chrisman, Ill.

Frank Gerard and **Charles J. Goder** and **Walter Moore** and **Sullivan Pearman** (all 1968), Post 184, Newport, Ind.

Raymond G. Adams (1968), Post 265, Evansville, Ind.

Roy Strahle (1968), Post 298, Hymera, Ind. **Angus L. Cotton** and **Eugene E. Harson** and **Harold A. Holmgren** (all 1968), Post 557, Lone Rock, Iowa.

Carlton M. Bailey and **Homer L. Davenport** and **Charles E. Farnum** and **Allen P. Lewis** (all 1968), Post 10, Livermore Falls, Maine.

Hector Saucier and **Arthur Sirois** and **Jean Sirois** and **John P. Walsh** and **Charles H. Watson** (all 1967), Post 49, Van Buren, Maine.

Herbert Neus and **Robert E. Warwick** (both 1969), Post 110, Mt. Rainier, Md.

Andrew Miller and **Casimer T. Niedzwick** (both 1967) and **Joseph Kolarik** and **Joseph McDeshen** (both 1968), Post 180, Rosedale, Md.

George W. Crowley and **Ronald O. Reese** and **Leo T. Rydzewski** (all 1968), Post 183, Parkville, Md.

Raymond J. Foley (1968), Post 126, Fall River, Mass.

Delfo Barabani (1966) and **Stanley Pula** (1968), Post 353, Willimansett, Mass.

John Dorkoski and **Jos. Gratzle** and **J. Knight** and **C. Van Liere** (all 1967), Post 93, Hartford, Mich.

Edwin Emerson and **Carl Engelhard** and **Mike Fitzpatrick** and **Frank Gibson** and **Alvin Gorvin** (all 1965), Post 65, Rosemount, Minn.

Russell H. Bell (1968), Post 202, Columbia, Mo.

Martin D. Harting (1965) and **Theodore Blase** and **Harry Tiesing** (both 1966), Post 312, St. Charles, Mo.

Emil J. Melby (1967), Post 34, Columbus, Mont.

Charles Barr and **Louis Bartos** and **Claude Bowser** and **Russell Carpenter** and **Clarence Coplen** (all 1967), Post 9, Hemingford, Neb.

William Allen (1965) and **John H. Hoffmaster** (1968), Post 103, Washington, N.J.

Benjamin T. Campanile and **Patrick Canale**

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS JANUARY 31, 1969			
ASSETS			
Cash on hand and on Deposit.....	\$	3,057,519.05	
Receivable		164,589.69	
Inventories		159,297.25	
Invested Funds		3,581,516.31	
Trust Funds:			
Overseas Graves Decoration			
Trust Fund.....	299,099.06		
Employees Retirement			
Trust Fund.....	4,355,873.60	4,654,972.66	
Real Estate		821,521.81	
Furniture & Fixtures, Less Depreciation		312,987.88	
Deferred Charges		47,056.60	
		<u>\$13,099,521.25</u>	
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED REVENUE & NET WORTH			
Current Liabilities	\$	993,757.11	
Funds Restricted as to use.....		137,550.89	
Deferred Income		2,332,155.85	
Trust Funds:			
Overseas Graves Decoration			
Trust Fund.....	299,099.06		
Employees Retirement			
Trust Fund.....	4,355,873.60	4,654,972.66	
Net Worth:			
Reserve Fund	650,553.31		
Restricted Fund	1,449,270.29		
Real Estate	821,521.81		
Reserve for Rehabilitation	320,929.59		
Reserve for Child Welfare	114,461.91		
Reserve for Convention.....	60,000.00		
Reserve for Publication.....	42,151.76		
	<u>3,458,888.67</u>		
Unrestricted Capital	1,521,896.07	4,980,784.74	
		<u>\$13,099,521.25</u>	

and Anthony Cappuccio and Aurelio Cardinale and Angelo Carnevale (all 1967), Post 191, Newark, N.J.

Joseph M. McGee and Charles A. McKeel (both 1968), Post 205, Kenmore, N.Y.

Carl J. Seeger and Gilbert R. Van Brocklin (both 1964) and William S. Barrett (1968), Post 527, Hamburg, N.Y.

Joseph P. Dwyer (1966), Post 628, Troy, N.Y. William A. Langswager and Frank W. Randall and Herman G. Worden (all 1968), Post 788, Hilton, N.Y.

James L. Shannon and Walter Shaw and Sidney Wager (all 1968), Post 937, Berlin, N.Y. Lester C. Yohey (1968), Post 980, Queens Village, N.Y.

Thomas Batt and Vernon Batt and Jesse Blackmon and Edward DeVantier (all 1968), Post 1451, Sanborn, N.Y.

Charles H. Thompson (1968), Post 1673, Sound Beach, N.Y.

Robert M. Thompson (1968), Post 84, Cambridge, Ohio.

Charles E. Althouse and Milton Aronsohn and Emory T. Bachman and Earl R. Baughman and Clifford M. Bennington (all 1969), Post 64, Coatesville, Pa.

Frank Micucci and Joseph Mulach and James C. Mullen and Robert A. Pokorny and William F. Punch, Sr. (all 1968), Post 481, Midland, Pa. William Drzazgowski (1969), Post 753, New Salem, Pa.

Hugh O. Hanna, Sr. (1968), Post 108, Hampton, S.C.

Soph Behrman and Oscar Haugen and Martin Kent and Virgil E. McNew (all 1968), Post 66, Lemmon, S. Dak.

Karl N. Pollard (1968), Post 1, Memphis, Tenn.

Robert R. Pantermuehl and Edwin A. Schulze and Max Stehling (all 1968), Post 179, New Braunfels, Tex.

Henry H. Smilie and Archie L. Stoddard and Ithamer L. Sweet and Roland L. Woodward (all 1969), Post 33, Morrisville, Vt.

Oric S. Ward (1965) and Frank Bioty and Alex Sherowski and John A. Wasick (all 1968), Post 87, West Rutland, Vt.

Edward Bouthillier and Arthur J. Laffey (both 1969), Post 88, Sheldon Springs, Vt.

Edwin J. Dentz (1961) and Chester A. Allen and Walter E. Medding and C. Earl Palmer (all 1968), Post 176, Springfield, Va.

Richard E. Stevens (1968), Post 183, Quincy, Wash.

Robert W. Frazier (1968), Post 70, Oshkosh, Wis.

Life Memberships are accepted for publication only on an official form, which we provide. Reports received only from Commander, Adjutant or Finance Officer of Post which awarded the life membership.

They may get form by sending stamped, self-addressed return envelope to:

"L.M. Form, American Legion Magazine, 720 5th Ave., New York, N.Y." 10019

On a corner of the return envelope write the number of names you wish to report. No written letter necessary to get forms.

American Legion Life Insurance Month Ending Jan. 31, 1969

Benefits paid Jan. 1-Jan. 31, 1969	\$ 100,534
Benefits paid since April 1958	6,759,689
Basic Units in force (number)	156,923
New Applications approved since	
Jan. 1, 1968	416
New Applications rejected	87

American Legion Life Insurance is an official program of The American Legion, adopted by the National Executive Committee, 1958. It is decreasing term insurance, issued on application to paid-up members of The American Legion subject to approval based on health and employment statement. Death benefits range from \$11,500 (full unit up through age 29) in decreasing steps with age to termination of insurance at end of year in which 75th birthday occurs. Quoted benefit includes 15% "bonus" in excess of contract amount. For calendar year 1969 the 15% "across the board" increase in benefits will continue to all participants in the group insurance plan. Available in half and full units at a flat rate of \$12 or \$24 a year on a calendar year basis, pro-rated during the first year at \$1 or \$2 a month for insurance approved after January 1. Underwritten by two commercial life insurance companies. American Legion Insurance Trust Fund is managed by trustee operating under the laws of Missouri. No other insurance may use the full words "American Legion." Administered by The American Legion Insurance Department, P.O. Box 5609, Chicago, Illinois 60680, to which write for more details.

NEW POSTS

The American Legion has recently chartered the following new posts:

Ozark Post 313, Ozark, Ala.; American Post 69, Phoenix, Ariz.; De Witt Post 379, De Witt, Mich.; Wayne Golon-Alfred Jackson Post 487, Mahwah, N.J.; Durham and Williams Post 421, Mill Spring, N.C.; Chinese-American Post 596, Houston, Tex.; Henry Love Post 812, Tyler, Tex. and Hargett-Washington Post 876, New Boston, Tex.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion will be held in month indicated. For particulars, write person whose address is given.

Notices accepted on official form only. For form send stamped, addressed return envelope to O. R. Form, American Legion Magazine, 720 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10019. Notices should be received at least five months before scheduled reunion. No written letter necessary to get form.

Earliest submission favored when volume of requests is too great to print all.

ARMY

1st Minn & 135th Inf—(May) Joseph Heck, 6206 Chowen Ave. No., Minneapolis, Minn. 55429

2nd Div (Florida Branch)—(Apr.) Walter A. Shanley, Box 376, DeBary, Fla. 32713

4th Arm'd Div (New York City Chapter)—(May) Ed Rapp, 144-47 72nd Rd., Flushing, N.Y. 11367

10th Field Sig Bn (AEF)—(May) E. F. Wright, 5124 9th Ave N, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33710

12th Eng Lt Rwy—(May) John Rodgers, 607 Angenette Ave., Kirkwood, Mo. 63122

13th Corps HQ, HQ Co & 4th Sig Bn—(July) Peter Bos, 6139 Lakeshore Rd., Hamburg, N.Y. 14075

17th Airborne Div—(Aug.) Victor Mittleman, 139 W. Plumstead Ave., Lansdowne, Pa. 19050

17th Ambulance Co, 5th Sanitary Tn—(July) Rodney Steele, Sr., 5806 Woodcliff Dr., Greensboro, N.C. 27410

19th Coast Art'y (Fort Rosecrans, Calif.)—(June) Perry Van Osdel, 6413 N. Madison, Hutchinson, Kans. 67501

19th Eng Reg't—(July) Edgar Warning, 9714 Holy Cross Rd., East St. Louis, Ill. 63100

25th Div—(July) J. Russell, P.O. Box 101, Arlington, Va. 22210

50th Eng Co A—(July) Richard Scoles, 4039 Eichelberger, St. Louis, Mo. 63116

52nd Sta Hosp—(May) Helen Barnett, Box 9, Sipesville, Pa. 15561

56th Pioneer Inf—(Aug.) T. McManus, 208 W. 1st St., Lowell, N.C. 28098

58th Arm'd FA Bn—(Aug.) Robert Trexler, P.O. Box 304, Boiling Springs, N.C. 28017

63rd Div—(July) Maurice Portman, 80 S. Chesterfield Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43209

77th FA, 2nd Bn, & 631st FA—(July) Jim Collins, N.W. Apts. 3A, Corsicana, Tex. 75110

80th Div—(Aug.) Rodney Bonsall, P.O. Box 1984, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105

95th Evac Hosp (Sm-b1)—(Aug.) Dick Seymour, P.O. Box 268, Barberton, Ohio 44203

99th Div—(July) E. Hill, 44 Brookside Rd., Philadelphia, Pa. 19118

103rd Div—(July) Harvey Ellsworth, P.O. Box 207, Holt, Mich. 48842

108th Field Art'y, Bat C (WW2)—(July) Edwin Snyder, 1269 Liberty St., Franklin, Pa. 16323

164th Inf, Co I (WW2)—(June) Ira Keeney, 521 2nd St. N., Wahpeton, N. Dak. 58075

164th Inf, Co L—(June) Thurston Nelson, 1533 N. 12th St., Fargo, N. Dak. 58102

166th-138th FA, Bat C—(May) Tony Pettine, 909 Righter St., Conshohocken, Pa. 19428

204th AAA, Bat D—(June) Merrill Brown, 106 Glenmore, Elkhart, Ind. 46514

207th Eng Combat Bn—(July) Joseph Lotterio, 484 79th St., Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

216th AAA Gun Bn—(June) Walter Rahn, P.O. Box 157, Clarence, N.Y. 14031

248th Field Art'y Serv Bat—(May) William Epps 409 Ashton Ave., Kingstree, S.C. 29556

257th MP Co (WW2)—(July) Elwin Berrier, Box 334, Valparaiso, Ind.

290th Eng Combat Bn—(July) W. Fisher, 312 Neal Ave., Mt. Gilead, Ohio

335th Eng Co A (WW2)—(July) E. Mutter, Rt. 1, Mt. Hermon, Ky. 42157

341st FA, Bat C (WW1)—(May) Ivan Patten, 214 Colorado Blvd., Denver, Colo. 80206

349th Reg't, Co H (WW1)—(Aug.) John Tray, 1617 E. Main St., Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

357th Inf, Co M (WW1)—(July) Carl Heien, 1020 N. Lee, Altus, Okla. 73521

360th Eng Reg't, Gen'l Serv—(June) Edward Ziats, Box 257, Marianna, Pa. 15345

363rd Inf, Co F—(July) Henry Holliman, Rt. 1 Box 53, Griffin, Ga. 30223

409th Inf, Co D—(July) Howard Bohmer, 11003 Cemetery Rd., Erie, Mich. 48133

424th QM Bn (Ldry), Co D, 2nd Platoon—(July) Robert McIntosh, 417 Linden St., Fond du Lac, Wis. 54935

430th AAA AW Bn—(July) Edward Trennert, 9001 S. Marshfield Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60620

437th AAA, Bat D—(July) Marvin Murty, R.R. 2, Traer, Iowa 50675

458th Ord Evac Co—(July) Lester Gudgell, Meadville, Mo. 64659

726th AMTRAC Bn—(July) Bob Priest, 2359 N. 23rd St., Lafayette, Ind. 47904

742nd MP Bn (WW2)—(Aug.) Roy Maring, Box 61, Moulton, Iowa 52572

749th Tank Bn—(July) Bill Reineke, Mount Vernon, Ind. 47620

783rd Eng Petr Dist Co—(July) Hansel Burley, 104 Vidalia Dr., Ferriday, La. 71334

819th QM Ster Co, Co B—(July) Donald Finch, 4125-A N. 20th St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53209

832nd Eng Av Bn (WW2)—(July) Melvin Dodson, P.O. Box 746, Waynesboro, Va.

843rd Ord Depot Co—(June) Robert Shoup, 1045 Haverford St., Johnstown, Pa.

860th Aviation Eng (WW2)—(June) Paul Dempsey, 2801 7th St., East Moline, Ill. 61244

869th AAA AW Bn, Hq & Hq Bat (Hawaii, WW2)—(July) Samuel Bennett, Rt 1 Box 11 Minford, Ohio 45653

876th Airborne Eng Bn—(May) Gedeon Takaro, 43-23 170th St., Flushing, N.Y. 11358

898th Ord HAM Co, GHQ (Africa, CBI)—(July) Demm Healy, Sr., 56 Taylor, Hillsdale, N.J. 07642

904th Field Art'y Bn—(July) Eugene Maurey, 11950 S. 92nd Ave., Palos Park, Ill. 60464

970th Eng Maint Co (WW2)—(July) Robert Grossman, 4766 Maize Rd., Columbus, Ohio

1390th Eng Forestry Co—(July) Paul Parker, Water Valley, Miss. 38965

1976th QM Truck Co—(July) Merl Johnson, Elbow Lake, Minn. 56531

American Ord—(Aug.) Alfred DeCristofer, 514 S. Vineyard Dr., Collingswood, N.J. 08108

Ambulance Service (USAAS)—(July) James Cummings, 803 E. Tioga St., Philadelphia, Pa.

NAVY

1st Seabees—(Apr.) Samuel Weissman, 46 Pinecone La., Westbury, N.Y. 11590

2nd Marine Div—(Aug.) Alfred Borsheim, 1407 Grand Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55105

6th Naval District, Perm Shore Patrol (WW2)—(July) Walter Holley, 2354 Minto St., Augusta, Ga. 30904

14th Seabees—(July) W. Amyx, 4436 Mesa Circle, Amarillo, Tex. 79109

20th Seabees—(July) W. Young, 4571 Kellogg Circle, Dunwoody, Ga. 30338

123rd Seabees—(Aug.) Andrew Tomsho, 10 Viburnum La., Levittown, Pa. 19054

302nd Seabees—(July) Harry Price, Jr., 135 W. 3rd St., Lewistown, Pa. 17044

Cape May Section Base & Wissahickon Bks—(June) Art Jordan, 7370 Henry Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19128

Minnesota Naval Militia (WW1)—(July) Dewey Wilcox, 60 First St., Pine City, Minn. 55063

Recruiting Sta, Milwaukee (1942-45)—(Aug.) P. Schultz, 326 W. Jackson, Woodstock, Ill.

USS Fitch (DMS25, March 1951-Apr. 1953), USS Robert L. Wilson (DD847, July 1946-Jan. 1948)—(June) Thomas Murphy, 364-A Washington St., Brighton, Mass. 02135

USS Reid (DD369)—(July) Robert Sneed, 1537 N. 59th St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53208

USS Thuban (AKA19)—(May) Samuel Krause, Fessenden, N. Dak. 58438

USS Washington (BB56)—(July) John Brown, Box 27035, Columbus, Ohio 43227

AIR

1st Air Force Clearing Sta, 40th Field Hosp—(June) Dr. Dirk Gootjes, 834 Ridgewood Dr., Waukesha, Wis. 53186

15th Air Depot Gp, 15th Rep Sqdn—(July) Harry Jones, 2532 N.E. Ave., Springfield, Mo.

33rd Photo Recon Sqdn—(July) Simon Rosenbaum, Rosenbaum Bldg., Meridian, Miss.

50th Ftr Gp, 10th Sqdn (WW2)—(July) Arthur Cameron, 3040 S. Forest St., Denver, Colo.

65th Trp Carrier Sqdn—(July) Bud Hawkey, Box 16, New Madison, Ohio 45346

310th, 321st & 340th Bomb Gps, M, 57th Bomb Wng, M, & 308th Sig Corps (Det)—(June) John Dillin, 130 E. Orange Ave., Lake Wales, Fla. 33853

325th Ftr Gp (WW2)—(June) John Evans, 2809 N. Harrison St., Wilmington, Del. 19802

MISCELLANEOUS

CCC—(Apr.) Bill Dietz, 446 55th St., Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

TWO NEW TAX RULES BOAT-FINANCING FACTS ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES GAIN

When you tackle the painful job of settling up your federal income tax this month, note two major changes since last year:

1. **SURCHARGE.** This is the $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ by which your regular tax was boosted in 1968. Your employer withheld two-thirds of it (5%), so—unless you took steps to pay the rest all along—you still owe $2\frac{1}{2}\%$. The instructions that come with your tax form spell out the surcharge in actual dollars on taxes up to \$735; after that, you do your own arithmetic.

2. **ESTIMATES OF 1969 TAX.** Remember that if your withholding isn't going to cover your 1969 taxes, you have to file a declaration to that effect and pay the shortage on the installment plan.

• **The government no longer will bill you for the installments.** Instead, it will give you some special vouchers to send in—though you still will get reminders when the vouchers are due.

• **You are pretty much on your own in calculating the surtax for 1969.** The present law expires in midyear, in which case the surtax would come to 5%. But the law might be extended, in which event a 5% calculation is too little. So take 5% as a minimum—but set aside some money in case you're low.

By way of other tax reminders:

• Your Social Security number must appear on your tax form. Failure to write in your number could result in a \$5 penalty.

• In addition to the various privately-issued tax guides for sale on newsstands, etc., the government has a highly complete, fairly readable job for 60¢ ("Your Federal Income Tax, 1969 Edition"; U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402).

★ ★ ★

Now that the big sales season for boats is under way—with more and fancier gear than ever available—consider how marine merchandise is financed. In a nutshell:

• **Boat dealers as a rule don't sell on credit.** You have to do your own financing or let the dealer arrange it for you.

• **Basically, boat loans are installment loans,** which means that the interest is quoted at around 6% or 7% (which is 12% or 14% simple interest). Usually the maximum loan is \$5,000, repayable in three years. Some lending institutions require you to make a down payment on the craft (25% or thereabouts), some don't.

• **If a dealer arranges the loan for you,** the interest will be higher, but on the other hand, you can get a larger loan for as long as seven years.

• **Like all financing, boat financing has been hit by the rise in interest rates,** while the supply of funds is a bit tighter than last year.

One consolation: If you don't know what to buy or whether you can afford it, you can resort to rentals, leases or charters of just about anything that's afloat.

★ ★ ★

It's a good bet that the next big trend in outdoor equipment is going to be the all-terrain vehicle which can negotiate land, water, snow, sand and marsh. Two approaches to all-terrain travel already are on the market:

• **Air-cushion version:** Exemplified by Cushionflight Corp.'s \$3,495 "Cushionflight-240," this type hovers on two to four inches of air, does 30 mph on water, 40 mph on land, carries a 425 lb. payload and is powered by a 1,600 cc Volkswagen engine.

• **Wheel version:** Exemplified by Action Age's six-wheel, \$1,395 "Scrambler," it does 22 mph on land, 2 mph on water (faster if you hook an outboard to it), seats three adults, and is powered by a 7 hp. four-cycle, air-cooled Briggs & Stratton engine.

Meantime, more and more kits are appearing to convert snowmobiles into land vehicles (by replacing the front skis with wheels). Price: \$60 to \$100.

—By Edgar A. Grunwald



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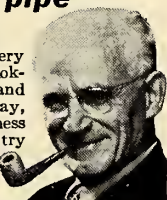
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THE STORY OF ELLIS ISLAND

(Continued from page 25)

istrator put it, the only asset many immigrants brought with them was their ability to work. So it was in the interest of the United States to care for those who had fallen ill during their passage until they were completely recovered. The hospital was crowded to the bursting point.

Accordingly, the government decided expansion of the island was again in order. But before work could begin, the island was subjected to the second of the three disasters which were to strike it. Shortly after noon on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 1911, the immigrants had just filed from the main hall to the lunch room. Several hundred yards away at Pier 7 in Communipaw, workmen were transferring dynamite from the boat *Whistle* to cars on the dock. At the same time, the Norwegian ship *Ingrid* was discharging its cargo of bone on the same dock. Suddenly, there was an explosion which rocked Ellis and blew in the entire north side of the administration building. Glass shattered, and arms and legs of the *Whistle* crew rained down on the island. As in its first catastrophe, Ellis was lucky. Nobody was killed, though dozens of immigrants and staff were cut by flying glass.

After things got back to normal, the request again went out to sea captains to dump their ballast of concrete and rock off Ellis' shores. This time, a second ferry slip was created to the south of the original slip, with space beyond it for a complete hospital, including isolation wards and recreation areas. To the north of the main building was added another strip of land. Altogether, the additions virtually doubled the land area of the island, and led Commissioner Corsi to proclaim that Ellis not only had played host to immigrants from all over the world, but was composed of earth from all parts of the world.

THE NEW WORK was completed in 1913. Late in 1914, WWI greatly reduced the flow of immigrants from Europe, and things were easier until the night of July 29, 1916. That night there were 480 immigrants on the island and 125 employees on duty when, at 2 a.m., a blast rocked the island, followed by two more blasts in quick succession. Soon the western sky looked like the ultimate in a Fourth of July celebration. Rockets were going off, there were earth-shaking roars and the night lit up at regular intervals. On the island, windows shattered,

parts of the roof collapsed and doors jammed. Employees, hurrying to round up the immigrants and take them to safety, remembered that the day before there had been 14 barges of munitions bound for Russia tied up at the docks of the National Storage Company in the Black Tom swamp, just behind the island. German agents, it was learned later, had detonated them, causing tremendous damage along the Jersey waterfront.

Again, nobody was killed on Ellis and injuries were negligible, though the explosions did some \$75,000 worth of damage to the buildings. Repairs were completed just about the time the United States entered WWI, and immigration dried up altogether. But Ellis didn't lack for visitors. The hospital, by then considered one of the best in the country for treatment of communicable diseases, became a military hospital for troops returned from France.

At the same time, the main building became a detention center for some 2,200 enemy aliens—primarily seamen from every enemy ship which happened to be in American waters when we declared war.

With the end of hostilities, the number of immigrants ballooned again—and (Continued on page 44)

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Blazer. Lightweight "year-round" tropical, 55% dacron, 45% wool. Gold buttons, silk embroidered emblem on outside pocket. Sizes 36 to 50* in short, regular, long, extra-long and stout (portly). Give weight, height, chest, and suit size when ordering blazers.

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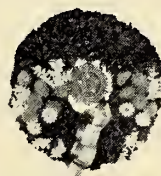
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so did political opposition to them. In 1917, Congress had passed a bill over President Wilson's veto requiring that each immigrant prove himself literate in his own language or in English. Then, in 1921, with the pressures too strong to resist, Congress turned the immigration tide to a trickle by imposing a quota system. Each country outside the Western Hemisphere now received a quota based on the percentage of its nationals in the population in 1890. Such a system worked in favor of immigrants from northern and western Europe (Germany, France, England and Scandinavia) and against those from southern and eastern Europe (Russia, Italy, Hungary, Poland and others) whence most of the immigrants were coming.

When the new law went into effect on the morning of August 1, 1921, residents of Staten Island and parts of Brooklyn were treated to a strange sight—a race which had started at the stroke of midnight among no less than 20 steamships to get their human cargoes ashore before the quotas were used up. Altogether, the fate of some 25,000 hopeful immigrants hung in the balance that day. The losers would be shipped back to their country of origin. Since the steamship companies would have to provide the transportation free, each company impressed upon its captains—with hints of a bonus or a fine—the importance of being first to unload. This system persisted until 1924, when Congress shifted the decision of who filled each quota from a first-come-first-served approach at Ellis Island to U.S. Consuls in Europe. From more than a million immigrants in 1920 and 1921, the number shrank to 450,000 by 1925 and less than a quarter of a million by 1930.

Ellis Island's greatest days were over, and members of the staff knew it. Under the new laws, U.S. Consuls handled much of the paperwork before the prospective immigrant ever left home. In addition, there were fewer immigrants, and inspectors could do their work on board ship, as they had been doing since the beginning with cabin passengers. As the 1920's dragged on, Ellis became more a center for deportation than the golden door for Emma Lazarus' "huddled masses, yearning to breathe free." By 1932, the number of deportees processed on Ellis was three times the number of immigrants, a trend which never reversed itself.

Nevertheless, more land and buildings were added to Ellis, bringing its total area to today's 27.5 acres.

In 1931, Ellis was rocked by one of the periodic scandals that revolved about it. Bribe-paying lawyers were getting to the old records and transferring identi-

ties from them to clients who couldn't get into the country legally. There were many ways in which this could be worked. It blew up when a legal immigrant of earlier years applied for a permit to visit the old country and then reenter the States. Only a little earlier someone else had used his identity to "re-enter" and thus actually enter for the first time.

"In 1932," recalls Sam Sherman, an Immigration Service official who served on Ellis, "the Depression had all but choked off the flow of immigrants from abroad. Some of those here decided things couldn't be any worse at home, so



"How can I sit here stuffing myself with cheese dip while the world teeters on the edge of chaos? Simple! Because tomorrow there may not be any cheese dip!"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

they started going the other way. At the same time, we were deporting anarchists. When word spread among the Scottish community that there were shipbuilding jobs going begging in Scotland, we began getting phone calls from Scots who said that, yes, they were anarchists, and they supposed they'd have to be sent home. So Uncle Sam paid for their passage." All told, only 528,000 persons were admitted to the United States during the 1930's, many of them just before the outbreak of WW2.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Ellis was again used as an internment camp for enemy aliens.

When WW2 ended, Ellis reconverted quickly to an immigrant station. But now the newcomers were gone and all that was left was a daily load of about 200 persons who were leaving. "It was a different class of people." Inspector Irving Lacks recalls sadly, "and the mood was different. The immigrants were eager to

come in. Most of the deportees were quiet, and some were sullen."

By 1954, the station was down to 30 to 35 "customers" a day, while the Immigration Service's new headquarters was rising atop a new office building at 20 West Broadway in lower Manhattan. Here the government could handle the paperwork which made up most of the work still being done on Ellis; and could construct detention facilities for the handful of deportees who would require them.

Accordingly, on November 24, 1954, after finishing the paperwork which would speed seaman Niels Petersen on his way back to Norway, the few immigration officials still on duty at Ellis posed for pictures, lowered the flag and boarded the ferry *Will C. Moore* for a last ride back to Manhattan.

Behind them, they left corridors through which had walked Russian peasant women, Scotsmen in kilts and Africans in full tribal costume. In a hallway several desks formed a makeshift schoolroom, mute testimony to the generations of children who had passed through Ellis. In a corridor leading to the hospital, a wheelchair tilted crazily on one wheel, and white wicker tables and chairs stayed behind to mark the rooms used for medical examinations. In the library, government packers had

overlooked a 1952 Manhattan telephone directory and a collection in Czech of the sermons of Mary Baker Eddy. Outside, in one of the buildings' recreation rooms, a 20-year-old WPA mural had started to peel slowly from the wall. In the corner, a battered upright piano showed its guts through a shattered front. In the kitchen, pots hung at the ready for the next meal, and on the floor was the typed menu for November 25, 1954.

WHEN THE IMMIGRATION Service moved out, the General Services Administration took over. At first a GSA watchman patrolled the island with a watchdog to keep intruders off, while the GSA sought a buyer. The government had valued the property at \$6 5 million, but was looking for more. Nobody seemed interested at any price. But when newspapers spread word that the island was on the market, GSA was bombarded with proposals and offers. One promoter suggested an amusement park. Another wanted to build a luxury housing development. Others suggested turning the island into a treatment center for narcotics addicts or a training center for the mentally retarded. Other proposals included a Bible study center, a maritime center or veterans' housing, a Boys' Town or summer resort. By the early 1960's it looked as if the GSA might have

a buyer willing to pay \$10 million for Samuel Ellis' island.

When that story spread, immigrants and children of immigrants suddenly realized that Ellis represented an important chapter in the American story. Some Senators, Congressmen and State officials saw that Ellis was the logical site for an American Museum of Immigration, already begun with a few exhibits at the Statue of Liberty. On October 21, 1964, Sec'y of the Interior Stewart Udall toured the island with a group of political leaders from New Jersey and New York. Udall proposed that the Park Service take over the island and convert it into a National Park. At the same time, he suggested, the State of New Jersey should take over some 400 acres of land along the coastline and convert it into a state park which would provide a proper setting for the new National Park. The area includes the Black Tom swamp, the Communipaw docks and a mass of railyards which the planners hope will become a green recreational area.

President Lyndon Johnson officially took Ellis Island off the real estate market on May 11, 1965, by making it a part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. The Park Service was asked to draw up plans for the property. "It's

(Continued on page 46)

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THE STORY OF ELLIS ISLAND

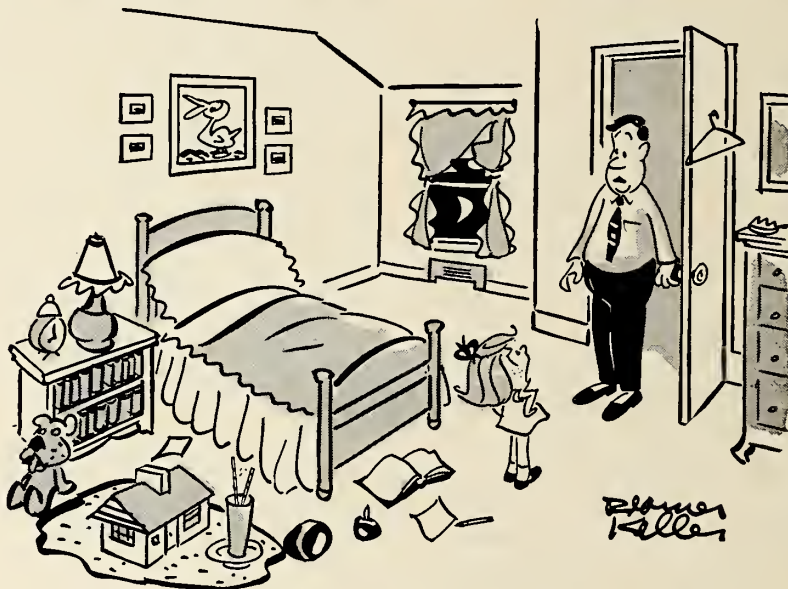
(Continued from page 45)

all a matter of money," admits Tom McClanahan, the National Park superintendent in charge. "Right now, we don't have any money for maintenance. As a result, the weeds are taking over the island." McClanahan admits that when GSA removed its guard and dog, vandals moved in to loot some of the buildings. "Actually they didn't do any serious damage, though they did remove some machinery, some copper roofing and plumbing and a lot of plumbing fixtures," he says.

Congress has authorized some \$65,000 for the maintenance of the island until a park plan can be put into operation. But since it hasn't actually appro-

films about the history of the island.

The Administration Building presents something of a problem. "The cheapest thing to do is to put exhibits in glass cases," he notes. "But I think it would be a lot more effective if we could convey to visitors something of the excitement and the fear the immigrants themselves felt. For example, we could dress Park Service personnel up in 1900-style Immigration uniforms, seat them at the high wooden desks the clerks used then, and have visitors follow the same route the arriving immigrant followed—answering the same questions the inspectors asked in 1900. Of course, that costs money."

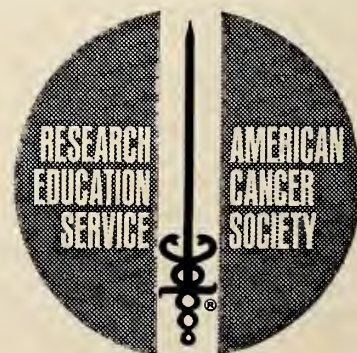


"I wish you'd knock when you come in to undress me, Daddy!"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

riated the money, there isn't much the Park Service can do. The plan calls for restoration of the main Administration Building, the auditorium and some auxiliary buildings, and the demolition of the remainder. The plan also involves landscaping the open area behind the hospital. It might include a formal garden, one or more baseball diamonds and a picnic area. It'll cost \$300,000 in its initial stages—and that hasn't been forthcoming. McClanahan notes that the idea is to provide both an area of interest to the general population and one which could be utilized by various ethnic groups for reunions or meetings. "We intend to make the auditorium available for groups who could come out for the entire day. They could tour the Administration Building in the morning with their children, then send the kids out to play ball while they held meetings in the auditorium." At times when the auditorium isn't being used for this purpose, McClanahan would like to show short

Until Congress comes up with the \$65,000 for housecleaning and \$300,000 for the first stage of renovation, nobody is setting foot on Ellis. Once the money does become available, it still may be anywhere from three to ten years. But one thing is sure in McClanahan's mind—the corridors which rang with the voices of immigrants from 1891 to 1954 will ring with the voices of their children and grandchildren some day. THE END



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By Mike Senkiw, Agronomist

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THE DILEMMAS OF AUTO INSURANCE

(Continued from page 13)

3. The percentage of auto-insurance premiums that are paid back in claims is remarkably low. Some placed it at slightly more than 50¢ of each premium dollar, others at no more than 25¢. Blue Cross was cited as an insurance system that pays back 93¢ of each premium dollar in claims. The court litigation on auto claims eats up a lot of money. The enormous investigation and "computer happiness" to achieve ever higher degrees of "selectivity" eats up more, as does the investigation of claims.

Craig Spangenberg, testifying for the American Association of Trial Lawyers, faulted the companies for a thing called "subrogation."

What's "subrogation?" Say your car is hit and you collect \$400 from your own company on your collision insur-

repair costs. On the other side of the fence, some insurance companies were charged with conniving with some repair shops to keep repair costs down by overlooking invisible damage to a car. An outsider cannot judge all this. He's tempted to murmur, "Where there's smoke, there's fire," but be none the wiser about the actual extent of such practices.

The big, inescapable dilemma of auto insurance, recognized by everyone, is the soaring cost of it all. It is moving steadily toward the point where everyone will have to buy his car back from the insurance company before he trades it in—a position some people have already reached. The insurance companies note that auto repair costs, medical care costs and hospital bills met by claims have



THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

ance. It seems the other guy was at fault. Once your company pays you, it "subrogates" your right to sue the other guy. It sues him to get back the \$400 it paid you. When it wins, *his* insurance company pays your company the \$400.

Well, said Spangenberg, this all evens out. Your company is losing subrogated claims brought against *its* clients at the same time it is winning them against clients of other companies. Subrogation ends up with the companies passing the same money back and forth, after jamming the courts all the more and running up litigation costs.

Even though he spoke for lawyers, and lawyers are the only gainers from this Ping-Pong game, Spangenberg said that subrogation was a silliness that the companies ought to stop.

This, like excessive selectivity, probably needs a law to bring it to an end. If just one company subrogates, others must do the same to stay even. In the end, the customers pay for the waste.

Charges and countercharges were made about auto repairmen jacking up

soared far ahead of the general inflation.

Meanwhile, accidents, and their deaths and injuries, just keep going up and up as the density of traffic grows. The companies note that economic loss from traffic accidents first hit \$3 billion in 1947, and, at the rate of increase they list, it probably hit \$15 billion in 1968—a year for which figures aren't yet in. Auto insurance hardly pays for half of this loss today, according to one witness at the hearings.

Nobody seems to be able to stop the accidents. The insurance companies say they spend about \$50 million a year (more than any other private source) promoting traffic safety, and think it well spent. They say that their selectivity, by giving a dollar break to safe drivers, ought to be encouraging safety. Their critics say this would be truer if selectivity were based more on individual driving records (as it is for many). Penalizing good drivers because they have the same jobs, or are at the same age or live in the same neighborhood as bad drivers promotes a "you can't win" atti-

tude in good drivers, such critics noted.

It is fairly standard practice for the companies to maintain a preferred rate for their more favored customers on the basis of three years without an accident. That may be to the good, except when they cut your throat for an accident you couldn't avoid, like the fellow who got a rock through his windshield.

But much of the whole mess is unavoidable, and more the fault of the whole system than of any people in it. For that reason, the so-called Keeton-O'Connell plan, or variations of it, is now receiving enormous attention. Keeton and O'Connell are two professors who spelled out a "no-fault" proposal for auto insurance. At the heart of it is a system for paying anyone who suffers a loss in an auto accident for the damage done him without bothering to see whose fault it is. It would pay all, or a fixed part, of the *measurable* dollar damage for doctor bills, hospital bills, time lost from work, etc., without question or delay, up to a limit of \$10,000. (Contested cases are now settled for an average of about \$2,000.)

This would lead to prompt payment, cut out a great deal of the lawsuits (some say 90%), whittle away the accident investigation cost by companies to fix fault or assess damages. The plan would pay

nothing for "pain and suffering," and that's a two-way street.

Though nobody said much about it in detail at the hearings, the companies are plagued with claimants who seek large amounts for exaggerated injuries. Such claims help load the courts, and add to the cost to everyone, whatever the final settlement. "Pain and suffering" is the basis on which enormous and sometimes exaggerated claims are based. But it is also a compensable bit of damage that is very real to anyone who has been injured. Organized lawyers are quite naturally against such a scheme, and of course can make a good case against prohibiting anyone from going to court to collect for real pain and suffering.

MANY INSURANCE companies are today giving plans similar to the Keeton-O'Connell plan a trial run in various test areas, though it is difficult to try them out under existing state regulations.

Neither insurance lawyers, plaintiff's lawyers nor mutual insurance companies like a version of the plan being tried out by some stock insurance companies. The lawyers oppose any plan to ask the insured to swear away their right to sue for pain and suffering, while the mutual

companies feel that the plan has been adapted to favor the competitive position of the stock companies and some of the "independents."

The plan proposed for Rhode Island last year would be a variation of the Keeton-O'Connell plan. It would let people sue for pain and suffering, but only collect what a jury would award them over and above \$5,000, and disallow lawyer's fees for the first \$5,000 of such an award.

Many experts feel such a system, while permitting lawsuits, would nevertheless discourage them because of the possibility of collecting actual measurable dollar damage speedily and surely.

You can get expert opinion covering the whole range of approval or disapproval of the Keeton-O'Connell plan. What the country is waiting for now is the result of the Department of Transportation study, not due until 1970. The study was authorized while the Democrats were in the saddle. The then Transportation Secretary, Alan S. Boyd, told the Congressional committees just how he was going to carry it out. Now there's been a change, and President Nixon's Transportation Secretary is former Massachusetts Gov. John Volpe. The change in leadership may or may not alter the direction of the study. **THE END**

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WHY IS IT TOUGH TO GET BLOOD?

(Continued from page 30)

amount of blood was used to treat the injured.

On Friday and Saturday nights, many hospitals deal with what Dr. John Adriani of the New Orleans Charity Hospital calls "the knife and gun club." "We might use 25 pints of blood on a gunshot patient who dies," says Dr. Adriani. "and we can't get his family to make it up." Racial violence in Detroit in 1967 required extra blood and the Red Cross made special collections in Ferndale and other suburbs to meet the need.

At Austin, Tex., the Travis County Medical Society Blood Bank, whose di-

had in the 15-man standby "walking bloodbank" aboard the *U.S.S. Yorktown*. But the average person must depend on our voluntary donor system for blood.

What can be done to avert recurring blood shortages?

First, new ways must be found to increase the supply of blood. Secondly, research must come up with methods that will more efficiently use the available supply.

The Department of Defense and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare as well as blood banking or-



"I suppose, if the operation goes wrong, you'll want to be buried with your golf clubs?"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

rector is John Kemp, an Air Force veteran, had its busiest day on Aug. 1, 1966, when a crazed student of the University of Texas killed 19 and wounded 31 persons with a rifle fired from a tower. Brackenridge Hospital, which normally used eight units of blood a day, was supplied with 81 in a few hours. Texans from areas near and far responded to the blood bank's call for donors. One San Antonio doctor loaded his car with containers of blood and drove 80 miles to Austin. Telephone lines were jammed and to avoid repetition of this the blood bank and the hospital are now connected by a "hot line."

The growing possibility of being injured in an accident might influence a way-out traveler to want to take along a pint of blood of his own type, as Gen. Charles de Gaulle, President of France, is said to do. Or he might travel with friends having compatible blood as the U.S. astronauts returning from the moon

ganizations, private foundations, universities and pharmaceutical and business machine companies are engaged in blood projects, either in spurring donations, advancing distribution procedures or in research work. Sizable HEW grants for research purposes are being made through the Cancer Control Program of the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Heart Institute which has a National Blood Resources Program.

The most dramatic recent technical advance is frozen blood. The process in widest use is the one developed jointly by the Navy, Dr. Charles E. Huggins of Harvard University and the Massachusetts General Hospital. The Harvard scientist is the son of Dr. Charles Huggins, who won a Nobel Prize for his work in cancer research. The freezing process preserves blood indefinitely instead of only for 21 days. Also it washes out any trace of infectious hepatitis, a serious liver disease. The equipment for

this method of freezing blood was first installed at the Chelsea Naval Hospital in Boston. Now, frozen blood banks of this type are on the hospital ships *Repose* and *Sanctuary*, at Clark Air Force Base and at blood banks in Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and more than a score of other cities.

A rival freezing system has been developed by the New York Blood Center which is headed by Dr. Aaron Kellner. He hopes to build it into a blood research center comparable to the Lister Institute in London and the Pasteur Institute in Paris. National Heart Institute and Union Carbide grants have helped this project.

With either system, considerable time is required to thaw and reconstitute frozen blood, and when thawed it must be used without delay. So far costs have been so high that most blood banks have used the process only for freezing rare and scarce blood types. To date fewer than 100,000 units a year are frozen. But if costs can be cut, it may well be the system of tomorrow. It would permit surpluses to be frozen for future use and allow a person to bank his own blood for possible use in time to come without the risk of mismatching or infection.

O THER APPROACHES to lengthening the life span of blood consist of mixing it with solutions of adenine and citrate-phosphate-dextrose. Combining the latter with blood to prevent clotting appears to add seven days to the shelf life of refrigerated (but non-frozen) blood. So far, however, medical authorities have approved it only for the usual 21-day use.

Adenine, an energy-supplying chemical present in most tissue, has been found to double the life span of stored blood—raising it to 42 days. Lt. Col. Charles E. Shields, Lt. Col. Frank R. Camp and others have conducted extensive research with it on soldier volunteers at the Army Research Laboratory at Fort Knox, Ky. Mixing adenine with blood has been in use in Sweden for years and its advocates are hopeful that it will be approved for use in the United States next year.

The demand for blood has revived interest in blood substitutes and expanders such as dextran, a sugar product made by the fermentative conversion of sucrose. Dextran is useful in treating shock and for priming heart-lung machines employed in heart operations. The heart-lung machine pumps blood out through the patient's arteries and receives it back from the veins. The heart and lungs are bypassed and the machine does the work of these organs during the operation. It takes several units of blood to prime the machine. The blood used must be col-

(Continued on page 52)

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WHY IS IT TOUGH TO GET BLOOD?

(Continued from page 51)

lected from donors within 48 hours of the operation.

Another substitute for blood—fluoro-carbon—has kept rats alive for eight hours, according to a report by Dr. Robert Geyer, Harvard biochemist. It is an inert synthetic lubricant. Also, a blood substitute consisting of salt water and hemoglobin, a protein combined with iron and carrying oxygen, has been proposed by Drs. S. Frederick Rabiner, J. B. Helbert and Harry Lopas of the Michael Reese Medical Center in Chicago. Human applications of both these substitutes are still in the future.

Component therapy, the use of blood fractions rather than whole blood to treat specific conditions, appears the most important of all recent blood developments. Instead of separating blood only into cells and plasma as before WW2, it can now be fractionated into cells, platelets and about 50 proteins. This stretches the blood supply and, by not overloading the patient with fluids and components that he does not need, gives him more precise and better treatment. Furthermore, the hazard of infectious hepatitis is greatly reduced.

Blood fractionation began during WW2 with methods and machines developed by the late Dr. Edwin J. Cohn of the Harvard Medical School, a veteran of WW1. More advanced separators have been devised since that time by the Arthur D. Little firm and others, including an engineer with International Business Machines whose son died of leukemia.

Since 1960, plasma, the source of the increasing number of usable blood fractions, has been more readily available, thanks to a process called plasmapheresis. While it's no substitute for whole blood, plasma (the major liquid component) serves notably well in such things as shock treatment. In plasmapheresis, after blood is drawn from a donor, the plasma is immediately separated out by a refrigerated centrifuge costing around \$5,000. The remaining cells are injected back into the donor—all in less than 30 minutes. While a donor can give a pint of whole blood every eight weeks, he can give two units of plasma a week by this process. Its use is growing by leaps and bounds, especially in commercial blood banks.

The American Association of Blood Banks is in the second of a five-year blood component therapy workshop program. This will train about 1,000 physicians and technicians in the preparation and use of blood components this year. Directing the program are Dr. John A. Shively of the University of Missouri and Dr. George J. Hummer of St. John's Hospital, Santa Monica, Calif. Dr.

Shively was a WW2 blood banker at Brooke Army Hospital at Fort Sam Houston. The workshops are supported by a grant from the Cancer Control Division of the U.S. Public Health Service.

New components and improved methods for producing them in quantity are being sought by the Red Cross at the new research center in Bethesda, Md., with the backing of a \$1 million grant from the National Heart Institute. A practical means of preserving blood platelets, which now must be infused in six hours, is badly needed and experiments aimed at achieving this are being



"—and note the sponge handle safety feature!"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

performed at Bethesda. Dr. Tibor J. Greenwalt, Red Cross Medical Director, is an ardent believer in components. He was a major in the Army Medical Corps during WW2.

The Red Cross is the sole source in the western hemisphere of vaccinia immune globulin, a blood derivative vital in the treatment of a rare and dangerous reaction to smallpox vaccination. Recently some was rushed from Washington, D.C. to Bogota, Colombia, by National Airlines and helped save a child from blindness. Blood for this fraction must be obtained from persons recently vaccinated against smallpox. With the cooperation of the Defense Department, the Red Cross makes collections for this blood derivative at military posts. The fraction is processed for the Red Cross by the Squibb pharmaceutical firm in New Jersey. The demand for derivatives has induced Squibb, Merck, Cutter, Baxter, Lederle, Parke Davis, Abbott, Knickerbocker and other commercial biological firms to step up their blood

research programs. Unless a hospital's blood operations are of sizable volume, it may be cheaper to buy rather than make some blood items, even though their prices include the cost of the blood purchased.

One blood fraction introduced in 1968 is a concentrated antihemophilic factor developed by Drs. Kenneth H. Brinkhous and Robert Wagner, University of North Carolina pathologists, and the Hyland Division of Baxter Laboratories. Their research followed procedures formulated by Dr. Judith Pool of Stanford University. The new preparation, called "Method Four," is six times more potent than earlier products. It controls bleeding so effectively that the patient does not have to be hospitalized. Hemophiliacs may eventually carry it with them and inject themselves. "Method Four" can be made for a hemophiliac from the same unit of blood whose red cells help an anemia patient and whose platelets treat a leukemia victim.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT new fraction, Rh immune globulin, trade named Rho-Gam, has been developed by Drs. John R. Gorman and Vincent J. Freda of Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and Dr. William Pollack of the Ortho Research Foundation. It is expected to save the lives of 8,000 to 10,000 babies a year and will prevent costly exchange transfusions by vaccinating expectant mothers against possible Rh complications.

While the great bulk of orders for blood in hospitals is still for whole blood—90% in some institutions—leaders in blood research predict that this will decline as physicians are educated in the merits of component therapy.

"We are entering into a broad new era of component therapy as opposed to the traditional blood transfusion era," says Dr. James N. Stengle, chief of the National Institute of Health's National Blood Resources Program.

Today, computers and other automated equipment are being used in blood banking to speed up technical delays. Examining every new unit to determine its type is time consuming and open to human error. A skilled technician can rarely examine more than 100 specimens in one day. Now there is a complex machine known as the auto-analyzer that "looks like an octopus eating a plate of spaghetti" which can perform this work faster and more accurately than the human eye can. It types 120 samples of blood a minute.

The 406th Medical Laboratory at Camp Zama in Japan has used one almost continually. Others are in use in Washington, New York and other cities.

Electronic machines and computers can keep many of the records of a blood bank and can also calculate the particu-

lar blood needs of a community for any given period. Computers are being used at big blood banks and collection centers in such cities as St. Paul and Detroit. New York will soon have one.

The rare blood files of the American Association of Blood Banks at Michael Reese Medical Center in Chicago and that of the American National Red Cross in Washington, D.C., are now computerized. At the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm, a central computer contains the records of 2 million Swedish voluntary donors who are automatically summoned when they are needed.

But blood must be on hand or donors available before it can be fractionated or examined by an auto-analyzer. Blood banks are seeking new ways to induce voluntary donors to bare their arms. Nearly all specialists agree that the bulk of blood must come from voluntary rather than paid donors. The Red Cross buys no blood, nor does Great Britain's National Blood Transfusion Service. One big advantage of the voluntary system is that it limits the cost of blood to the expense of processing and administering it. Charges for Red Cross blood are made for the processing costs—not for the blood itself.

UNtil a PRACTICAL test is found for infectious hepatitis—and anyone who comes up with this will be a good candidate for a Nobel Prize—blood banks and collection centers must depend on uncertain knowledge of the donor as to whether he has had this disease. There is considerable evidence that the skid row donor who is selling his blood is likely to forget his medical history in his anxiety for cash. This also applies to many prison inmates whose sentences are shortened in return for giving blood. The prisoner serving a long-term sentence who has been under continual medical observation for many years is a lesser risk.

It has been pointed out that if buying blood becomes the rule, then it is only a step away toward giving money for transplanted kidneys and hearts. Dr. Milford O. Rouse of Dallas, President of the American Medical Association in 1967-1968, stresses that the voluntary donor system must be maintained and strengthened.

"The whole human body, created by God in the image of God, as the temple of the soul, is not subject to ownership," he notes. "Nor can it be reduced to a salable commercial commodity. . . . Blood represents only the first tissue to be transferred successfully from one person to another. . . . When further tissue and organ transplants are possible, the patterns established with respect to blood will become the basis for concepts relating to all subsequent tissue and organ transplants."

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Dangerous Plants

EVERY OUTDOORSMAN and camper should learn to recognize dangerous vegetation. They are classified as (1) skin irritants, (2) nasal irritants, (3) plants that wound, and (4) poisonous when eaten.

Poison oak and *poison ivy* are the most widely distributed skin irritants. Neither real oak nor ivy, they are simple climbing vines, and grow in dry and sunny ground, often under trees. Identify them by their glossy green leaves growing in clusters of three, pointed at the tip and base, the end leaf with a short stalk and the side leaves with none. In fall they bear small waxy berries. In winter, spot them as hairy vines. *Sumac* is another hazard. It may grow in swamps or well-watered hedge-rows and meadow fringes. It is a small tree with bunches of gray berries, and leaves which turn a beautiful red in fall. The oily sap of these plants causes skin irritation on con-

tact, as does the smoke when the plants are burned. A person may be immune to them for years, then suddenly become their victim. The irritation shows as small, white, itching blisters; scratching spreads it. First aid is to bathe the affected parts in a baking soda solution, then apply calomine lotion. Serious cases require medical treatment.

Bramble bushes and *briers* are among the few plants that wound. There are also the *saw* and *razor grass* that cut, but none of these cause serious injury. Contact with the familiar *cactus*, however, is painful. The spikes, even the tiniest, are best removed singly with a tweezers. Don't try to suck them out; you'll transfer them to your tongue. Wounds from these plants can be treated with an antiseptic.

The nasal congestion of hay fever is caused by wind-pollinated plants which produce large quantities of light, airborne pollens, toxic to those allergic to them. Among these, surprisingly, are oak, elm, alder and maple trees. But the primary offender is the flowering *ragweed*, growing up to seven feet on tough, hairy stems with many much-divided fern-like leaves. Its small, greenish flowers release the pollen in fall. Medical treatment consists of anti-allergy injections. Incidentally, apologize to

the maligned *goldenrod*; it seldom if ever causes hay fever.

Mushrooms are the commonest poison foods, and require an expert's identification. A mistake can be fatal! Always avoid those with a cup or ball at the stem's base, white gills, or a ring around the stem. And never eat any mushroom raw. And don't believe the myths that a poisonous mushroom will tarnish a silver knife, won't peel easily, tastes bad or is brilliantly colored! Other plants with milky sap usually are poisonous. Berries resembling our strawberries, raspberries, blackberries aren't. Neither are plants or berries eaten by mammals (bears, squirrels, etc.) but don't trust birds; they even eat mistletoe berries which are deadly to humans.

For further information: "Poisonous Plants of the United States," published by the Macmillan Co., New York, N.Y.



Poison Sumac

Poison Ivy (Eastern)

Poison Oak (Western)

OUT in the boondocks without a bottle opener? Problem is easily solved if your car or camper is within reach, reports Stanley Clark of East Bradenton, Florida. The radiator or gas cap is perfectly designed for the job.

CHECK your tent each spring before using it on a camping trip, suggests J. A. Gilbert of St. Charles, Missouri. Set it up in your yard and shower it with a lawn sprinkler or spray nozzle. Leaks will show as damp spots on the inside. Repair with spray-on waterproofing compound or wax stick.

NEW ISSUE of the 1969 Gun Digest is now available. Articles by leading authorities on firearms, hunting, gun collecting, new products. Up-to-date catalogue section. 416 pages. Price: \$4.95 from your dealer or: Gun Digest, 4540 West Madison St., Chicago, Illinois 60624.

A CAMP TABLE is the suggestion of Ken Fink of Reading, Michigan. In his car trunk he carries a half-inch plank of Masonite with holes in two adjacent corners. At his campsite, ropes through these holes and tied to a nearby overhead tree branch hold

up one side of the table. A stick, cut to size, rests on the ground and fits in a notch on the opposite bottom side to provide a leg.

EXTENSION for your oil can, to reach inaccessible places on machinery, your outboard motor, fishing reels, etc., is provided by a soda straw, writes Willard Hogeboom of St. Petersburg, Florida. Slip the straw over the can's short spout.

A SMALL MAGNET, soldered to the side of your tackle box and painted so it won't rust, is handy for holding your hook, plug, knife, clipper, etc., when you're changing lures, suggests Joe Holt of Fairmont, West Virginia. Attach several magnets and they'll hold a number of items at the same time.

DRY FLY treatment that's guaranteed to keep trout flies floating is suggested by Richard Hiland of Manchester, N.H. It's women's hair spray! If it will keep a gal's hairdo intact in the rain, it'll do the same waterproofing job for hackles and feathers.

A PLASTIC SPONGE serves as a handy pincushion for an angler's hooks and lures, writes W. H. Barton of Pascagoula, Miss. When you're changing lures frequently, it saves time and lets them dry before being returned to the tackle box. Should it fall overboard—no worry; it floats.

TO CLEAN a knife with a carbon-steel blade (not stainless), run the blade into the soft ground a few times, suggests A. Howlett of Kansas City, Kansas. The abrasive action of the earth will clean off all rust spots and corrosion. To avoid scratching, select a spot free of stones and pebbles.

ANOTHER fire starter, also a good one, is suggested by Clare Markey of Chillicothe, Mo. Cut some small squares from a sheet of lightweight weather-board, and soak them in melted paraffin. When dry, they can be carried in your pocket or tackle box.

TO MAKE your fishing lure more attractive, tie a small spinner or even a streamer fly, to the line about a foot ahead of it. In action the combination looks like a baitfish chasing its prey, and any old lunker watching them can't resist grabbing one or the other. Sometimes both!

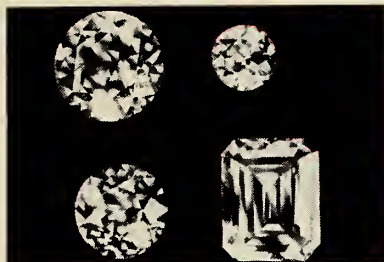
NYMPSH are best bait for spring trout fishing. Make your own by dabbing a bare hook with fingernail polish, then dipping it before it's dry in sand, crumbled dry leaves, or sawdust. Or wrap shank with colored wool, leave a few loose ends for feelers or legs, then coat with clear fingernail polish.

Ed Note: In the column on "Winter Hazards" in the February issue, it was stated that further information could be obtained from a book titled "Winter Camping." This book is now out of stock. In its place, refer to: "Paradise Below Zero," Macmillan Co., New York, N.Y.

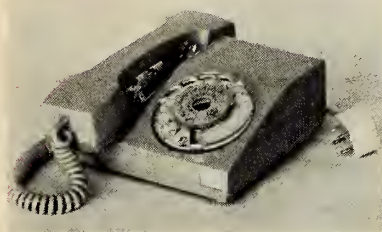
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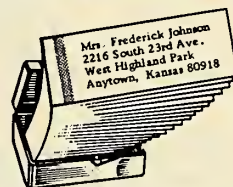
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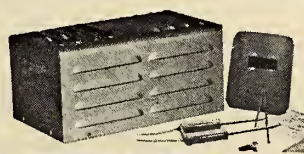


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"Help yourselves to the spaghetti, folks. Peg will serve the meatballs."

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"THE WHIRLING DERVISH"

An avid fisherman—the type with the patience of Job, the verbosity of a sphinx, and the posterior of a rhinoceros—was reluctantly persuaded to take the new pastor fishing.

The pastor, a novice by comparison, followed the old pro's lead for three hours. Three hours void of sound, movement, or fish. His legs were starting to bother him so he carefully stood up to relieve a cramp.

The crotchety old man turned slowly around. "Did you come to fish or dance?"

ROBERT RISCH

STUCK FOR THE CHECK

A man was making a tour of Japan when he ran into an old friend in Tokyo who suggested dinner at one of the most exclusive and expensive restaurants in that large Japanese city. At the end of the meal the friend called the waiter to the table and, struggling over every word, spoke to him in Japanese.

"Is that all the Japanese you've learned after being in Japan for over a year?" asked the visitor.

"It's enough," the friend assured him. "I just told him to give you the check!"

DAN BENNETT

LONG WAIT

"I am sorry, but the manager isn't in," the clerk told the pompous individual who had strutted in. "Is there anything I can do for you?"

"No," snapped the visitor, "I never deal with underlings. I'll wait until the manager returns."

About an hour later, the pompous one became impatient.

"How much longer do you think the manager will be?" he demanded.

"About two weeks," was the nonchalant reply. "He just left on vacation."

F. G. KERNAN

REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY

They keep saying that women are smarter than men, but did you ever see a man wearing a shirt that buttoned down the back?

JANE HUNT CLARK

GAS MAGICIAN

Whether my tank is full or low,
My son's trip long, or just a hop,
He always makes it come out so
His jaunt is good to my last drop.

I. B. TIERNEY

APT DESCRIPTION

Human body: Pore house.

LAKENAN BARNES

NOT IN THE CARDS

The fellow's an addict of poker and gin,
His bank account's always a wreck;
His ship, it's apparent, won't ever come in
Until he gets off of the deck.

S. S. BIDDLE

HOW TO HURT A GUY

Men of that age forget that 50 is half a buck.

BILL COPELAND

FLING

We can't buy happiness,
We know—
What fun to practice
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MAY RICHSTONE

SOUND FAMILIAR?

Modern living: When you go to a neighbor's house to watch TV and pay a baby sitter to watch it in your house.

ELEANOR C. WOOD

AMONG THOSE PRESENT

As the wedding party idled,
He stood neatly "groom"ed and "bridal"ed.

MARGARET HILLERT



"Fred, we're going to need a bigger lighthouse!"

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